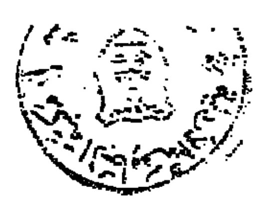
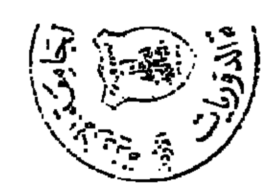




Islamic Authority to Hold Islamic-Western Conference

CAIRO — Sunni Islam's highest religious authority, Al-Azhar, will hold an international conference here next week on relations between Islam and the West and Muslims and non-Muslims, an Egyptian official said Wednesday.

Religious Property Minister Mahmud Hamdi Zaqzuq said the conference, which begins Sunday and runs through Wednesday, was necessitated by "the West's conviction that a confrontation with Islam is imminent now that world communism has collapsed."

(Contd on Pg. 14)



20 PAGES, PRICE 200 RIALS

VOL. XIX; 79; THURSDAY JULY 10, 1997; TIR 19, 1376; RABIUL-AWAL 4, 1418

One More Ciller Aide Resigns in Turkey

ANKARA — A former close aide to conservative politician Tansu Ciller on Wednesday defected from her True Path Party to Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz' rival bloc, the Anatolia news agency said.

Hasan Peker, a former deputy leader of True Path, became the 38th deputy to resign from Ciller's party since the December 1995 general elections.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Gambian President Invited to Tehran OIC Summit

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met with the Gambian President Yahya Jame', in Banjul Wednesday, and submitted President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's invitation message to him to attend the 8th summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to be held in Tehran in December.

Velayati and his entourage arrived in Banjul on Wednesday on the first leg of his African tour. He was welcomed by his Gambian counterpart Alhaji Omar Sey.

Velayati, who had earlier visited Syria and Tunisia, said that continuous consultations with leading member states of the OIC

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Iran, Saudi Arabia Set to Relaunch Air, Sea Ties

RIYADH — Iran and Saudi Arabia are expected to set up air and maritime links soon, Tehran's ambassador said here on Tuesday.

"Saudi-Iranian relations are improving ... and the establishment of regular air links between Tehran and (the western port of) Jeddah is near," Mohamed Reza Nouri said.

"The establishment of a maritime link between Iran and the Saudi Port of Dhahran is probable," Nouri told reporters.

He also said representatives of several private Saudi firms were in Iran recently to sign several economic cooperation accords with Iranian companies.

"One of the accords provides for a Saudi-Iranian joint venture to build hotels in Mecca for Iranian pilgrims," Nouri added, referring to the Muslim holy city.

Meanwhile, the government-backed Janbazan and Mustazafan Foundation and the privately-held international Saudi company Faezine signed accords in the area of transport, industry, agriculture and joint foreign investment.

They agreed to start factories to produce fruit juice and food items, along with packaging and the companies will also study a joint project for the maritime and air transport of commercial goods to Central Asia.

The foundation manages commercial operations, including large farms, and will export fruit to Saudi Arabia.

Faezine and the Janbazan and Mustazafan Foundation will build a 14 million-dollar factory in central Iran to make black cloth for the chador, or Islamic veil, that

(Contd on Pg. 14)

President Appreciates Services of Iranian Workers



TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here on Wednesday appreciated the services rendered by Iranian workers during the eight years of Sacred Defense (1980-1988) and in the course of the reconstruction era.

Addressing a large crowd of people who had gathered to honor President Rafsanjani's hardwork for the past two consecutive terms in office, the president said restoring the rights of workers is one of the goals of the Islamic Revolution and the government and is recommended by Islam.

He said, "During my tenure at the executive branch I have done my best to help attain the goal of social justice in the labor sector."

"No one can claim to serve social justice if he ignores the laborers' rights and violates the rights of the working class," he said.

He lauded the "labor law" already approved by the Parliament (Majlis) as very significant and

(Contd on Pg. 14)

NATO Leaders Create Far-Reaching Security Network

MADRID — NATO leaders took another major step aimed at closing the divide between East and West on Wednesday, inaugurating a new Security Council of nations spanning North America, Europe and former Soviet Asia.

One day after a NATO summit invited Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to join, leaders of the alliance and 28 partners formally launched the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, to meet some of the defense concerns of non-NATO members.

NATO also signed a sweeping new security charter with Ukraine, sealing the Slav nation's shift away from the former Soviet sphere of influence and closer to the western orbit.

Still basking in the afterglow of NATO's historic decision to expand eastward, alliance leaders hailed the summit's achievements as the dawning of a new era in European relations.

"We can transform this continent into a safer and more stable place where each country can live and work with each other in peace and prosperity," NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana said at the inauguration of the new council.

The new grouping includes countries seeking alliance membership like Romania and Slovenia, neutrals such as Switzerland and Austria, and former Soviet republics like Lithuania and Tajikistan.

The council, which will have a permanent secretariat at NATO's Brussels headquarters, is intended to fill the security vacuum created after the collapse of European Communism. *(Reuter)*





MADRID, Spain (July 8): French President Jacques Chirac (L), U.S. President Bill Clinton (2D L), NATO General Secretary Javier Solana (3D R), Queen Sofia and King Juan Carlos (2D L); in the second row, Georgian President Eduard Sheverdnadze (L), an unidentified man (2D L), Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski (2D R); and Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi (2D L) pose prior a dinner at the Royal Palace in Madrid given by Spanish King Juan Carlos. Others unidentified.

(AFP PHOTO)

If United No One Can Harm Muslims

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — If Muslims come together and stand together, the arrogant powers cannot do anything against Muslims. Thus, it is necessary for Muslims to be united against the U.S.-led global arrogance, said the senior lecturer in Arabic and Islamic Civilization at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, M.Z. Abdur Razzak.

In an attempt to create doubt among Muslims, the Western media from time to time hatch new plots to create doubt among Muslims by paying people to write fake stories against Islam and insult Muslim sanctities. For instance, the British apostate author Salman Rushdie, who insulted the Holy Prophet of Islam (S), he said.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

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Milosevic Repeats Offer for Belgrade Talks

BELGRADE — Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic on Wednesday reiterated in an open letter an invitation to hold talks with Bosnian President Biljana Plavsic in Belgrade after his first offer was rejected.

"The solution to the crisis is to reach agreement, not to have conflicts between Pale and Banja Luka," Milosevic wrote in his letter quoted by the Tanjug News Agency.

"My offer stands. I sincerely hope for your sake that you will not be late," he said.

Pale is the Bosnian Serbs' stronghold near Sarajevo, while

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TEHRAN TIMES

TEHRAN TIMES NEWS SERVICE
Editor-in-Chief, Tel: 8809500
Editorial Office, Tel: 8810293-5
Distribution & Subscription Department, Tel: 8808895
Electronic Access Tel: 8809437 8809470
Telex: 213662 TTIM IR 224569 TTIP IR
Fax No. 8808214
ISSN 1017-9410
Address: No. 32, Koucheh Bimeh Nejatollahi Ave. [former Villa] Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Printed at Kayhan

In the Name of God

He gives life and causes death, and to Him you shall be brought back.

(HOLY QORAN) (10:56)

OPINION

Who is to Render Justice to the Poor?

Article 142 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran states: "The holdings of the Leader, the president, ministers, their spouses and children shall be examined by the Supreme Court before and after their service to assure that no wealth has been illegally accumulated."

Stressing on the evil of unexplained wealth in the hands of government officials, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, said recently: "Today certain persons try to mercilessly trample upon the law in order to gain windfall assets. The Judiciary must reverse this dangerous phenomenon."

The mandate the Constitution and the Leader have entrusted to the Judiciary is absolutely clear. But note the reaction of Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi to the Leader's statement: "We cannot investigate people for their wealth. If there is any complaint we will consider it."

We would like to remind the Judiciary Chief of another article of the Constitution, i.e., Article 49: "The government is required to confiscate all wealth derived from usury, usurpation, bribery, misappropriation of public funds, theft, gambling, misappropriation of endowments, public contracts, etc..."

It is not within our domain to check on the veracity of reports appearing lately in Persian-language newspapers regarding acts of embezzlement or astronomical wealth attributed to certain government ministers. We believe that responsibility rightly falls on the final bulwark of justice, that is, the Judiciary. We need only to stress that it is of utmost necessity that those reports be investigated and the culprits brought to justice.

Can we infer from the reaction of Ayatollah Yazdi that he has misunderstood the Leader?

As we have previously said, wealth in itself is not a crime and he who has not violated the law should not fear any inquisition. By asking ministers and top officials to divulge their wealth there is no presumption of wrongdoing. A government official, before he runs for office or accepts appointment to a position of responsibility, agrees in principle to make his life an "open book." If the minister throughout his tenure had a clean performance, which is actually the contention of the Ayatollah, then he would fear no investigation of his financial holdings because the effect would only confirm his clean record.

Corrupt government officials have always opposed the principle of transparency in the government. The application of such a principle has two advantages: first, people and officials will insist on their indictment on the ground that no one can violate the law with impunity. Government service is not and should never be a stepping stone to unexplained wealth.

Secondly, a system of accountability will increase the people's confidence and respect for the institution of government service and this is particularly true in a government that is enshrined in Islamic precepts. The Iranian nation expects that in accordance with the teachings of the Qoran there should be no nepotism, social injustice, bribery, etc. A person who says he believes in God but does not practice his faith is like a jellyfish. The same is true if we simply capitalize on the nobility of our system but do nothing to punish wrongdoers. Isn't the Judiciary of any country the final arbiter of wrongdoing?

Let us hope that the Judiciary Chief changes his mind and decides to take the Leader's guidance. He will not only have the gratitude of millions of Iranians who are disenchanted with the increasing gap between the rich and the poor but their respect as well.

Velayati Confers With PLO Official in Tunis

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met with Head of Representative Office of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Tunisia Farouk Qoddoumi Tuesday night before his departure for Gambia.

At the meeting, Qoddoumi called Zionist regime's policies as "double-standard and violent", IRNA reported.

Velayati criticized Western countries for their indifference towards Zionists' recent insult to Muslims' sanctities and said the policies adopted by the U.S. and Israel were against Arabs' interests.

He said that all-out cooperation among Muslim states was the sole way of confronting Israeli threats and plots.

The Iranian foreign minister said that Iran's stance was based on defending Palestinian Muslims' legitimate rights and on liberation of occupied Arab lands.



including those belonging to Syria and Lebanon.

On Tuesday, Velayati held another meeting with President of the Tunisian National Assembly Habib Boulares. In their meeting the two sides reviewed further promotion of Tehran-Tunis cooperation and problems related to the world of Islam.

Boulares referred to the existing problems of the Muslim world and called on Muslim countries to take serious steps for strengthening their mutual cooperation.

He expressed his keenness for expansion of Tunisia's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and said the presidential elections held in Iran on May 23 further brightened the prospects of cooperation between Iran and Tunisia.

Velayati for his part referred to the large potentials the Muslim countries enjoy and underlined the need for marshalling of resources for further bolstering of mutual cooperation among world Muslim countries.

He said the parliaments of the two countries could increase their bilateral cooperation.

Velayati also termed the setting up of the Iran- Tunisia Joint Commission, fruitful.

Maneuver Launched in Torbat-e Jam Region

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran's Army launched meneuvers in Torbat-e Jam, in northeastern Province of Khorasan, on Wednesday in commemoration of the Tir 7 martyrs.

The commander of the exercises, Brigadier General Ahmad Karimi, said that "70 high-ranking infantry officers and experts oversaw the maneuvers."

Troops backed "by live artillery fire occupied the heights of a fictitious enemy" in the Torbat-e Jam region, he said adding that helicopters participated in the maneuvers to transport troops and wounded.

Lech Valesa Eager to Visit Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Former Polish President Lech Valesa in Warsaw Wednesday expressed willingness to visit Tehran to get acquainted with post Revolution developments in Iran.

He made the remark in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Poland Mohammad Taheri.

According to IRNA, the former president of Poland said that the Polish people were trying to embrace spirituality and divine values in contemporary materialistic world.

Valesa also confirmed Taheri's statements that there were many similarities between the revolution of Polish people under his leadership and Iran's Islamic Revolution.

He said that Iran is a historical and civilized country, having the potential to establish good economic relations with other countries, especially with Poland.

Over 80 kg of opium Seized, 3 Smugglers Killed

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Law Enforcement Forces confiscated over 80 kilograms of opium as well as arms and ammunition in eastern parts of the country near the border with Afghanistan on Wednesday. Three drug traffickers were killed in clashes with the forces.

Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati said last month that Iran has spent around $2 billion dollars since the 1979 Islamic Revolution on fighting drugs and that 2,000 members of the Iranian security forces had died in clashes with traffickers.

Tremor Jolts Lar

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — An earthquake with a magnitude of 4.6 degrees struck the vicinity of Lar, in the southern Province of Fars, at 1:19 hours GMT on Wednesday.

The Geophysics Institute of the Tehran University registered the epicenter of the quake 950 kms south of the capital, Tehran.

No reports have been available on probable damage.

Another tremor measuring 4.2 degrees jolted Orumiyeh, the capital city of northwestern Province of Azarbaijan, at 10:58 local time (6:28 GMT) on Tuesday.

According to IRNA, the Seismological Center of Tabriz University registered the epicenter of the quake 50 km north of Orumiyeh.

Hosseini: Iran Leading Host Country to Refugees

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Head of Interior Ministry's Organization for Expatriates and Refugees Affairs, Ahmad Hosseini, said here Tuesday that Iran is hosting the highest number of refugees in the world.

Of the two million registered refugees, said Hosseini, Iran is home to 1,280,000 Afghans, 490,000 Iraqis and refugees from other countries.

He appealed to Iraqi Kurdish refugees to register their names for their return home in view of the establishment of peace in northern Iraq and the readiness of officials in northern Iraq to receive them, IRNA reported.

Iran in cooperation with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has launched a program to help Iraqi and Afghan refugee volunteers to return home, and on Monday a batch of 420 Iraqi Kurds left for northern Iraq, added Hosseini.

University Students to Be Sent to India at PhD Level

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran's Minister of Culture and Higher Education Mohammad Reza Golpaygani said here on Wednesday that the ministry will send students to India only at PhD level.

According to IRNA, Golpaygani made the remark in a meeting with the new Indian Ambassador to Tehran, Rajendra Singh.

Turning to the growing ties between the two countries in cultural field, in the area of higher education in particular, he voiced Iran's readiness to expand bilateral cooperation in the fields of communications, satellite and supercomputers.

Syrian Minister Lauds Imam Khomeini's Foresight on Zionists' Threats

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Tlass said in Damascus on Tuesday that the FAther of the Islamic Revolution, the late Imam Khomeini, had always cautioned Muslims throughout the world against the mischievous plots of the Zionist regime.

According to IRNA, the Syrian minister made the remark during a speech at the International Seminar on Imam Khomeini's Thoughts on Islamic Civilization.

"At the time when the late Imam Khomeini was talking of the conspiracies of the Zionist usurpers, unfortunately none of the regional rulers were listening to his warnings," said Tlass adding "Day by day the regional peoples are feeling the intensity of the Zionist danger and are beginning to realize the importance of Imam's strategy and guidelines."

Emphasizing on the need to confront the Zionist designs to build new Jewish settlements and to change the demography of Bait-ul-Moqaddas, he said that among the political objectives of the late Imam was to resist the Israeli plots.

"Had the regional rulers listened to the warnings of Imam Khomeini some 20 years ago, we would not have been facing such difficulties today," said the Syrian defense minister.

The seminar started its work in Damascus on Monday.

The seminar heard speeches by 15 prominent Muslim personalities on the first day, among them the Deputy Secretary General of the Lebanese Hezbollah Sheikh Naeem Qasem.

Mayors Elaborate on Municipality's Activities in Southern Tehran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Mayors of districts 9, 15, 16 and 18 in a press conference on Tuesday elaborated on measures taken by the municipality in southern Tehran during the past few months.

Speaking at the meeting, the Mayor of District 16, Mahimani said that the prime objective of Tehran Municipality is to solve the problems of residents in southern Tehran, adding that the current gap between southern and northern parts of the city should be removed in the future.

Mayor of District 15, Saninejad, said that Tehran Municipality has been turned to a management and monitoring organization in recent years, and that currently most of the activities of the municipality are focused in southern Tehran.

Meanwhile, Mayor of District 18, Rabati, noted that since the districts of southern Tehran have common problems, they have decided to coordinate their activities with each other and carry out joint operations in order to resolve all the problems in this area.

Alijani, the mayor of District 9, reiterated that there are many sports and cultural facilities for people in the northern sections of the city, adding that collective measures have been taken in recent years for the development of greenery and sports facilities in southern Tehran.

Another Mykonos in the Making

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — There are evidences pointing to the possibility of another legal conspiracy after Mykonos, the scenario being part of continuing efforts to destroy Tehran-German relations.

The Persian-language daily *Kayhan*, in an editorial entitled "Second Chain of the Crisis" writes that this time grounds are being prepared for provoking new tension by making Iran accountable for the Pan American crash in Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988. The crash of the Boeing 747 lead to the death of 261 passengers and crew. The plotters have brought in as "Evidence C" a witness by the name of Abul Ghasem Mesbahi.

According to the files of the case, the U.S. Air Force counter-intelligence puts the blame on Iran. A report by the U.S. CIA says that Iran paid $10 million to bomb the PanAm jet.

Kayhan's commentary draws attention to two important issues. First, the issue is raised simultaneous with the anniversary of the shooting down of Iran's Airbus 300 by a U.S. military plane. Secondly, the timing of the accusations coincides with recent Israeli and U.S. moves to discredit the Islamic Republic because of the failure of sanctions that have been imposed.

The daily further writes that to implement its special strategies in the Persian Gulf, the U.S. stands in need of European cooperation. It should not be forgotten that the U.S. only managed to drive Iraq out of Kuwait in the Persian Gulf war by forming a coalition with Europe.

The daily *Salam* in a political commentary also surveys the Mykonos case and criticizes the country's foreign policy. The daily writes that the political officials of our country announced that Helmut Schimkos, a German national who spied for Iraq in the Iraqi-imposed war and who was arrested and sentenced to death will soon be released, we expressed regret over this news.

Salam writes that designing of the scenario of the release of Schimkos paved the way for provocations of Israel and the U.S. to press the humiliated German since the World War II and the seed for the Mykonos farce was planted.

The daily's analyst raise the question as to who is responsible for the exercise of wrong management and faults in this respect and how our foreign policy is demarcated in relation to our security and national interests?

Iraq Proposes New Food Distribution Plan to UN

BAGHDAD — Iraq has put forward a project to distribute food to its sanctions-hit people under a UN oil-for-food accord but the United Nations said Wednesday the plan was incomplete.

"I received yesterday a preliminary draft of the distribution plan prepared by the government of Iraq. It is a good step in the right direction, but it does lack some details on important sectors," said Staffan de Mistura, UN coordinator for humanitarian affairs in Iraq.

"Therefore we need further discussion before its submission to the Secretary General," he added.

The embargo imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in 1990 was eased in December under a UN oil-for-food deal allowing Baghdad to export two billion dollars of oil every six months to buy food and medicines.

But Iraq has suspended the crude exports pending agreement on a new food distribution deal for the second six-month term.

Baghdad, which accuses Washington of delaying UN approval of food and medicine contracts, has received only just over one million tons of the 2.3 million tons of supplies it financed with the first-term crude imports. (AFP)

Indonesia's 1997 Coffee Production May Plummet 40%

JAKARTA — Indonesia's coffee production for 1997 could drop as much as 40 percent from the usual annual crop around 500,000 tons, a report said Tuesday.

Chairman of the Indonesian Coffee Exporters Association, Usman Sudargo, was quoted by the *Kompas Daily* as saying the decrease was caused by "weather problems" at the end of 1996.

Sudargo, speaking in Bandarlampung in southern Sumatra, said that too much rain and wind have damaged some of the crop.

He added that after domestic consumption, Indonesia will have a total of around 200,000 tons of coffee available for export in 1997. (AFP)

Iran, Kuwait, Oman to Conduct Research on Fisheries

BANDAR ABBAS — Head of Iran's research and education institute of fisheries organization Gholamreza Amini said here on Wednesday that Iran and two Persian Gulf littoral states are to conduct joint research on fisheries.

Amini said that two Iranian institutes of research on fisheries in the Persian Gulf, Kuwait and Oman would soon launch biological studies on sea creatures and the deposits of several fishes in the Persian Gulf. (IRNA)

Unaccounted for Water Seminar Concludes Work

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The second and last day of First National Seminar on Unaccounted For Water (UFW), was mainly allocated to technical and scientific lectures and questions and answers.

During the session, experts from Iran, Germany, Austria and India elaborated on manufacturing and renovation technology of pressurized pipes. They further discussed corrosion of master pipelines, full research on UFW in urban network.

During the technical session, the outcome of experiments and studies conducted on Tehran and Bushehr as sample regions were presented.

Technology of measuring the quantity of water and methods for identifying and controlling UFW, ways of leakage detection through analyzing the sonic signals were explained.

Gifts of appreciation were distributed among the experts whose papers were selected.

Dr. T. A. Sihorwala from India during his lecture said "corrosion is the phenomenon of the interaction of a material of pipe with the environment namely water, soil or air resulting in its deterioration."

"Pipeline is a major component of a water supply system costing around 60% to 80% of total cost of the project and hence subject of corrosion of water pipe and its control play a significant role", the Indian expert said.

The mechanism of corrosion, types of corrosion, internal and external corrosion and factors affecting the corrosion were discussed in detail by Sihorwala.

His lecture also highlighted the preventive and curative aspects of corrosion control in different situations.

Present at the seminar were Iranian and international experts who presented their papers and made speeches.

One of the leading experts was Ronald Liemberger from Austria, who elaborated on ways of controlling and reducing the unaccounted for water (UFW).

Liemberger said drinking water is becoming a rare commodity in many regions of the world and efficient water resources management becomes indispensable in order to handle the available resources with care.

"Nevertheless, water supply systems do not always run as efficiently as they could," he said and added that in most cases a high percentage of the water produced, gets lost due to physical and non-physical deficiencies of the distribution and the plumbing system. For this reason a basic concept for non-revenue water reduction by upgrading distribution systems has been developed.

"Especially in developing countries water companies can not meet the continuously increasing demand for safe drinking water for the quickly growing population," he said.

The Austrian expert then listed the problems which the aforementioned water utilities are facing, as follows:

*Most parts of the distribution network as well as service connections are old, weak and leak. *Most fittings are out of operation and/or surface boxes are covered or do not exist. *Proper repair material is not available and the workmanship of the repair team is poor. *Tools, machinery and vehicles for proper maintenance are not sufficient *Network drawings are not updated or do not even exist *The non-revenue water rate is high (40% to 80%) *The water production might be sufficient but supply in many zones is intermittent *Many service connections are not metered, or installed meters are defective. *Water bills are based on estimates. This encourages wastage. *The high non-revenue water rate causes substantial financial losses *The internal organization of the water utility is not very efficient *Water related health problems are caused by unhygienic conditions of the distribution system

Due to the existence of these worldwide problems nationally and internationally financed projects are implemented, aimed at an improvement of the prevailing situation. In many cases such projects are limited to the isolated implementation of single technical or institutional components.

The real problems are not of technical nature and their resolution is not a classical engineering task. The usual linear approach with feasibility study, design and construction phase and detailed financial concepts is the proper way to construct completely new supply and distribution systems but is normally not adequate or possible for rehabilitation works.

Basically, the operation and hydraulic performance of the distribution system has to be investigated systematically. The application of sophisticated technology will not be necessary. Only an iterative approach with continuous diagnostic and immediate therapy will be successful.

How to reduce the UFW rate: Pressure monitoring program, flow measurement program, and quantification of non-revenue water and its components are among the measures which should be taken in order to reduce UFW rate.

In case of a single comprehensive project, the overlapping implementation of measures of second and third priorities might be advantageous, but should only be taken into consideration if funds for the completion are already released.

The two-day seminar was inaugurated Tuesday by Energy Minister Bijan Zanganeh.

During his speech Zanganeh outlined plans devised to prevent water wastage and said that the amount of water wastage dropped from 38 percent in 1989 to 28 percent last year.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the First National Seminar on Water Unaccounted For, the minister said the amount is to be reduced to 20 percent in 1999.

The main objective is to attain the international standard of 15 percent, Zanganeh said.

Due to its specific geographical location, Iran has limited water resources. However rapid population growth as well as industrial and agricultural development have led to the consumption rising disproportionate to existing water resources. This, he stressed necessitates economizing in water consumption.

Deputy Energy Minister in Charge of Urban Water and Sewage Affairs Gholamreza Manouchehri said that the real production capacity of drinking water of the country is 3.8 billion cubic meters, 2.9 billion cubic meters of which are sold to subscribers and the remaining 900 million cubic meters are wasted annually.

He added that with respect to the cost of production and distribution of water (Rls.600 per cubic meter), about Rls.360 billion is wasted per year.

There are 6,452,000 water subscribers in the urban areas of the country, therefore, 95 percent of the urban population are supplied with safe drinking water, he said.

The water distribution network is over 70,000-km long, Manouchehri said.

The drinking water supply of the country rose from 2.6 billion cubic meters in 1989 to 4.9 billion last year, he said.

Experts from India, Malaysia, Czech, Singapore, Austria, Germany and Switzerland attended the seminar.

Experts and researchers from Hong Kong, China, U.S., Taiwan, Venezuela, Poland and Macau have also sent research papers to the seminar.

Dr. T.A. Sihorwala delivering speach at UFW seminar

Iran, Turkmenistan to Form Desert Research Institute

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran and Turkmenistan are to set up a desert research institute with an aim to check encroaching desert sands in the arid central province of Yazd, an IRNA report said.

Head of the Center for Research on Natural Resources and Livestock affiliated to Yazd Construction Jihad Office Mohammad Reza Daneshvar, following a Turkmen delegation's week-long visit on Tuesday, said that the institute is expected to be operational soon.

Daneshvar said the Turkmen delegation which inspected desert control projects in Yazd Province, got acquainted with activities underway in the areas of sand stabilization, watershed management, harnessing of floodwaters and irrigation.

The delegation also visited the Chah Afzal district of the city of Ardakan to get familiar with related projects.

Iran, Tanzania to Expand Cultural, Educational Ties

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Promotion of cultural and educational relations between Iran and Tanzania was discussed in a meeting between the Tanzanian Minister of Education Kapuya and Iranian Head of the Organization of Culture and Islamic Ralations, Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Taskhiri in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

In the meeting, Ayatollah Taskhiri said that the Iranian delegation is delivering a message of peace and friendship for Tanzania, expressing hope that the two countries' cultural and educational relations would further enhance in the near future.

He added that the Iranian President-elect Mohammad Khatami is a cultural figure and is interested in issues relating to the African states.

Recitation of Qoran Contests to Be Held Soon

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Manager of Endowment Organization's Religious Affairs and Contests of Qoran Hojjatoleslam Alireza Nazari told reporters yesterday that the fifth nationwide contest of recitation of the Holy Qoran will be held July 14-21 in Qazvin.

He said some 400 reciters and memorizers of the Qoran will participate and the best among them will be selected to take part in international contests of the Holy Qoran.

TEHRAN TIMES

Bandar Abbas Refinery Materialization of Iranian Experts Will

S.V. Aqili

BANDAR ABBAS, Hormozgan Province — The only thing which could relieve the impact of killer humid weather of Bandar Abbas at the time of the visiting local journalists was to see the superb endeavors of Iranian experts who successfully accomplished and put into operation the first phase of one of the world's greatest oil refineries under construction, the Bandar Abbas Refinery.

It is beyond the stretch of imagination that less than eight years ago the refinery, which has been constructed entirely by Iranian experts, was simply a 700-hectare arid land some 30 kilometers west of Bandar (port) Abbas coastal city.

All the time Ebrahim Zaman-Zadeh, project manager, was talking to journalists he had to give necessary background on different phases of refinery construction, starting eight years ago with some 6 million cubic meters of earth moving. He said that no one could guess that the earth-moving works be finished in 9 months.

Some 550,000 cubic meters of concrete were made and used for the foundation and concrete works of the refinery. Because of hot climate the water used in concrete had to be cooled before being mixed with cement and aggregate in concrete mixers.

All the installation works of the refinery's equipment were carried out by experts of Directorate of Engineering and Construction of National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC).

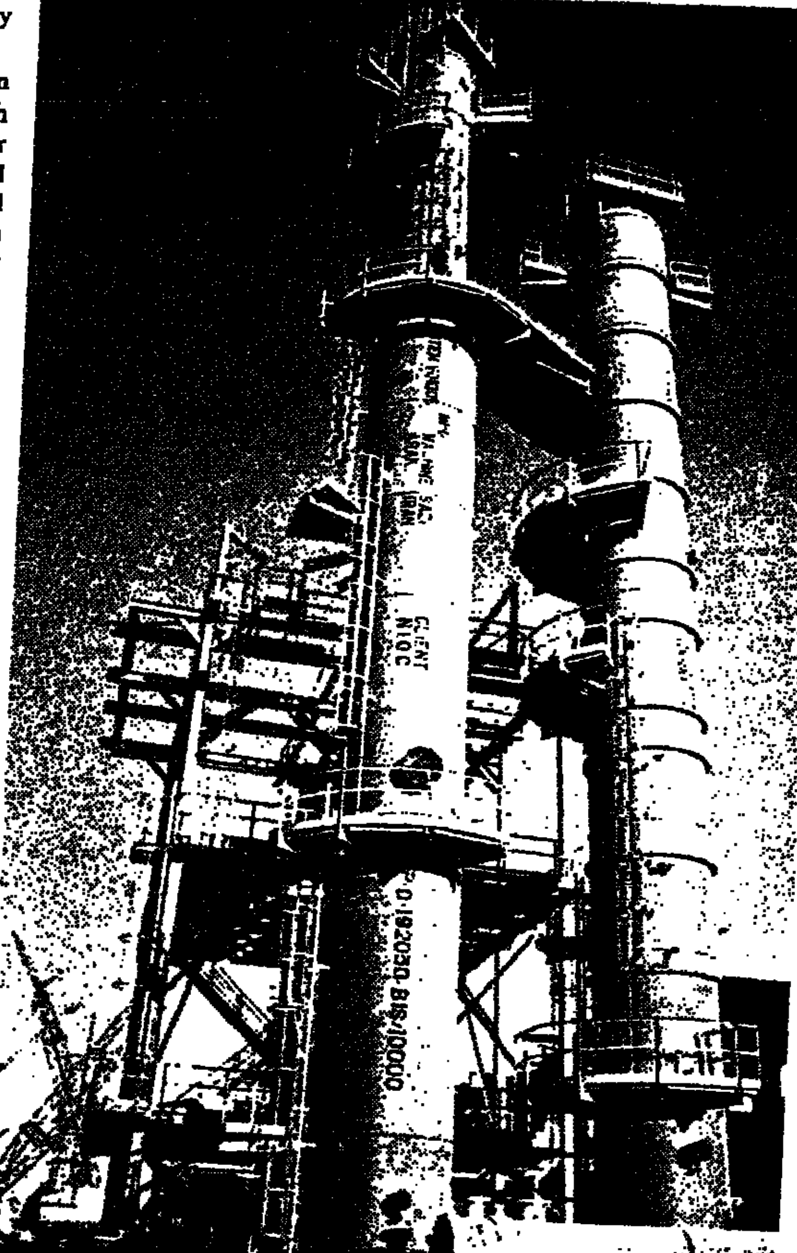
Ahmad Hendiani, site manager, who accompanied the journalists throughout their visit of the refinery explained enthusiastically all the necessary details of the refinery's step by step construction works.

"Only job satisfaction can make people work under such though work conditions of Bandar Abbas Refinery," Hendiani told the journalists when they asked him how do they work in intolerable weather of Bandar Abbas. And he proved indeed that he has an admirable sense of work dedication and job satisfaction.

For few moments the journalists could take a rest and relax when they entered the rather cool anti-blast controlling rooms of the refinery which as a matter of fact functions as brain does in body.

Hendiani showed the journalists the refinery's dome-roof reservoir tankers which he said are made by Iranian experts inside the country. He told that the Japanese observers admired the Iranian experts for their efforts to construct the huge dome-roof tankers with their initiative, new in the field for the first time.

Some 550,000 cubic meters of concrete were made and used for the foundation and concrete works of the refinery. Because of hot climate the water used in concrete had to be cooled before being mixed with cement and aggregate in concrete mixers.



Samples of pressure vessels, columns, reactors, boilers and heat exchangers totalling 228 in numbers which have been designed and manufactured by Iranian Heavy Industries and erected by local contractors.

To meet part of the domestic demand for the petroleum products and also with a view to exporting some of these products, the Ministry of Petroleum of the Islamic Republic of Iran constructed a 232,000 — BPSD (11.5 million metric tons for year) refinery in Bandar Abbas.

The refinery site covers an area of about seven square kilometers, large enough to provide space for future expansion. The refinery will process 220,000 BPSD of Iranian heavy crude oil together with 12,000 BPSD of gas condense from Sarkhoon gas fields located about 50 kilometers from the site.

The refinery is designed for obtaining maximum quantities of middle distillates and will produce LPG, gasoline, kerosene & jet fuel, gas/diesel oil, fuel oil, asphalt and sulphur.

Water for cooling is obtained from the sea. It is a once-through process. Special care for sea environmental protection has been taken. In addition desalination plants will provide fresh water for sanitary and industrial usage.

Modern technologies in various fields such as prevention of environment pollution and wastage of energy, maximum safety, and flexibility of the refinery processing units are taken into consideration in design of this large and modern refinery.

In Bandar Abbas Refinery, special emphasis has been placed on the transfer of technology and maximum utilization of Iranian talent and workforce in all phases of the project from basic and detailed engineering, and supply and manufacturing of materials and equipment, to construction work.

Implementing the above principle, the Iranian engineering companies have successfully completed the basic and detailed design for such complex and important refinery units as the atmospheric and vacuum distillation, amine treating and kerosene hydrotreating units and also some other units.

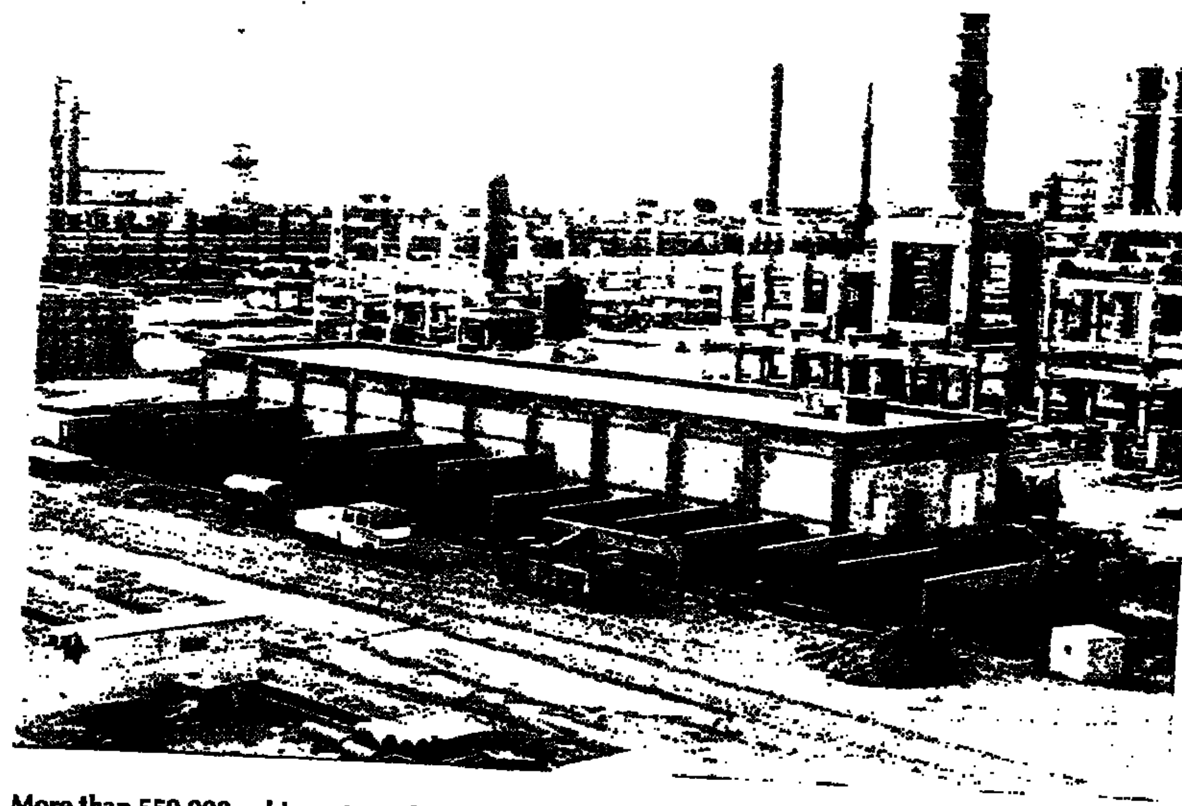
For the supply of materials and equipment, the Iranian heavy industries have designed, fabricated and supplied the project with a majority number of pressure vessels, columns, reactors, boiler and heat exchangers, and also most of the steel structures.

The above mentioned works have been partly performed by the Snamprogetti (Italy) / Chiyoda (Japan) joint venture.

In so far as the construction work is concerned, the whole of the civil works from site preparations to the finished foundations and buildings, and the construction of all of the storage tanks, have been successfully completed by local contractors.

Local constructors have also performed construction works of the huge Sea Water Intake System, which will deliver sea water to the refinery.

Precommissioning and commissioning of the refinery started in March 1997, and already some of units are on stream, producing marketable products.



More than 550,000 cubic meters of concrete poured by Iranian construction contractors under highly unfavourable climatical conditions of Bandar Abbas.

Iran Gateway for Central Asia and Caucasus

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran is Central Asia's gateway to the world and its road networks and transportation facilities are the most conducive and economical in conducting commerce among regional countries and with the world, the weekly *All Over the Globe* published in Almaty wrote on Wednesday.

The weekly noted that various free trade zones, extensive road and rail networks as well as airports have enabled Iran to provide the best transportation services to the countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

The article added that due to Iran's advantageous geographical position, the countries in the area have the ability to use these advantages to gain access to the world markets to conduct trade.

Security is the most important and salient feature which sets apart Iran's road system from those of other countries, concluded the weekly.

Iran to Implement Construction Projects in [illegible] City

[illegible]

TEHRAN [illegible] Akmola, which is to become [illegible] capital of Kazakhstan [illegible] year 2000, explored [illegible] contribution to road [illegible] construction projects [illegible] IRNA reported.

During its [illegible] Kazakh city [illegible] delegation [illegible] of the city [illegible] construction [illegible] roads.

The [illegible] its visit to Akmola [illegible]

Yemen for Cooperation With [illegible]

[illegible]

Japan's May Current Account Surplus Up 154.9%

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Japan's current account surplus for May expanded 154.9 percent from a year earlier to 906.8 billion yen, following a 92.7 percent growth in the previous month, the Japanese Finance Ministry said Wednesday.

Goods and services trade showed a surplus of 412.8 billion yen, against a deficit of 104.1 billion yen a year earlier, the ministry said in a preliminary report, as quoted by an IRNA-Kyodo dispatch.

Japan's surplus in merchandise trade surged 118.6 percent to 927.9 billion yen, it said.

Exports grew 20.2 percent to 3,984.9 billion yen, while imports rose 5.8 percent to 3,057.1 billion yen, the ministry said.

In services trade, Japan posted a deficit of 515.1 billion yen, compared with the 528.7 billion yen deficit a year before, the ministry said.

The current account balance measures the flow of goods and services as well as investment income and other monetary transfers.

Armenian Premier Calls For Larger Cooperation With Russia

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Armenia and Russia have a huge potential for development of economic cooperation, Armenian Prime Minister Robert Kocharyan said at a news conference yesterday that marked the 100th day of his work in the cabinet.

He said that the current level of bilateral economic relations does not correspond to the level of political ones, an IRNA-ITAR-TASS disaptch said.

A delegation of the Armenian Energy Ministry is staying in Moscow for negotiations with leaders of the Russian Gazprom Company to discuss creation of a joint company for transportation of Russian gas to Turkey via Armenia, the premier said.

Russian businessmen and financiers are very much interested in investment activities in Armenia. Not only the Rossiisky Kredit Bank, as it has been reported, but also other major Russian banks are interested in opening offices in Armenia.

Commenting on the cabinet work in the first half of this year, Kocharyan said they managed to improve the economic situation despite the lack of credits. The debts on pensions and allowances were partially paid, structural changes in the government were made and a situation with tax and customs due collection was improved.

If the cabinet manages to pay the social debts by September, a slight rise of salaries may be considered, the premier said. A priority task of the government is to attract foreign investments in the republic.



SPORTS SUMMARY

Tehran Times Service

CYCLING

Zabel Wins and Dismisses Rumors of Rift

PLUMELEC, France: Erik Zabel of Germany who won the third stage of the Tour de France here on Tuesday and then dismissed claims that his teammates Bjarne Riis and Jan Ullrich were hardly talking to each other.

There had been Rumors that Riis, last year's winner, was angry with last year's runner-up Ullrich because he had not helped him back into the Peloton after he became involved in a mass pile-up on Sunday.

The 23-year-old Ullrich, the last product of the highly successful East German Academy, had said before the tour that politically it could be difficult to have a non-German national like Riis, who is Danish, leading a German team.

CRICKET

England Keep Faith with Losing Team

LONDON: England's selectors have named the same team that was beaten by Australia in the third test at old Trafford for the fourth match of the ashes series at Headingley, which starts on July 24.

The decision by chairman of selectors David Graveney to announce the 12-man squad almost two weeks ahead of schedule is an unprecedented move and a massive vote of confidence in captain Mike Atherton.

RUGBY UNION

Angry Smith Goes on a Wallaby Cull

SYDNEY: Furious coach Greg Smith berated the Australian team for 20 minutes at training Tuesday before announcing seven changes from the side mauled by the New Zealand all blacks to play England in a one-off rugby union international here on Saturday.

Smith said he was disgusted by the Wallabies' performance in a limp 30-13 loss in the opening Bledisloe Cup match in Christchurch last Saturday and, after his stinging invective, he made the switches.

GOLF

Grady Out of Open; Singh Has Visa Problems

LOCH LOMOND, Scotland: Australian Wayne Grady has given up hope of playing in next week's British Open championship at Royal Troon.

Grady was involved in a playoff at Troon in 1989 with fellow Australian Greg Norman and eventual winner Mark Calcavecchia.

The 1990 U.S. PGA champion, who turns 40 in two weeks' time, Tuesday scratched from the final qualifying event. He was due to play at the Glasgow Gailes course next week along with former European no. 1 Ronan Rafferty and American Robert Gamez.

Fijian Vijay Singh, meanwhile, has pulled out of the Gulfstream world invitational, which starts at Loch Lomond on Wednesday, because of visa problems.

OLYMPIC GAMES

Samaranch Snub Angers Deaf Sportsmen

Copenhagen: Deaf sports officials hit out at International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch on Tuesday, claiming he had reneged on an offer to officially open the world deaf games.

The 18th World Games for the Deaf begin in Copenhagen on Sunday and organizers had been expecting the Spaniard to conduct the opening.

"On Monday we received a negative response saying that it would be impossible for Mr. Samaranch to be in Denmark, even though we received a fax from the IOC on April 4 confirming his participation," deaf games press officer Lone Troldberg said.

FORMULA ONE

Hill Tips Villeneuve to Close Gap on Schumacher

SILVERSTONE, England: Damon Hill believes Jacques Villeneuve will roar back into world championship contention at the British Grand Prix this weekend.

The world champion expects villeneuve to reassert his superiority at Silverstone — as long as the Canadian can first see off his Williams-Renault team-mate Heinz-Harald Frentzen.

But hill has warned his former team that they face a tough battle from a Michael Schumacher-inspired Ferrari over the second half of the season.

Schumacher has a 14-point advantage over villeneuve after winning the last two Grands Prix, in which Williams have shown signs of fallibility.

"I think one of the Williams cars will win the race. They will be the favorites because the circuit will suit them, but it could be a toss-up between Jacques and Heinz-Harald Frentzen as to who wins the race," Hill said.



Agassi Set to Return After Two Month Absence

WASHINGTON — Former world number one Andre Agassi is set to return in the Washington ATP tournament next week after a two month absence with a wrist injury it was announced here on Tuesday.

"Andre feels great and is ready for action. His wrist is 100 percent," Phil Agassi, his brother and manager, said.

The 27-year-old Agassi, who's last of three grand slam successes came in the 1995 Australian Open, has fallen to number 30 in the latest world rankings and has missed all three grand slams so far this season, including Wimbledon which he won in 1992.

"Andre could have played at Wimbledon but he didn't want to take a risk. He wasn't certain that his wrist would have been able to take a fortnight of best of five set matches. Why play if one could aggravate the injury?" Pil Aassi said.

Alomar All-Star MVP in Front of Home Fans

CLEVELAND - Sandy Alomar took a big step toward restoring the family name.

"We're a good family. We're a baseball family. We do the best we can do to put baseball up there," he said Tuesday after his two-run homer off Shawn Estes gave the American League a 3-1 victory and won him the all-star game's MVP award.

It's time to finally forget about Roberto Alomar's spitting. Tuesday night's all-star game will be remembered for Sandy Alomar's game-winning homer in front of the Indians fans.

"It means so much to the family," Roberto said.

Last fall, Roberto's spitting at Umpire John Hirschbeck dominated baseball's headlines and nearly caused a postseason walkout by the Umpires.

But with a 30-game hitting streak and this award, Sandy is beginning to overtake his brother in the battle for headline space.

It's been an emotional week for the brothers, playing together in an all-star game for the fourth time. Their grandmother, Tonee Valazquez, died last week at age 96 and was buried Monday in Salinas, Puerto Rico. They wore black arm bands in her memory.

Sandy Alomar Sr. Appeared in just one all-star game, going 0-for-1 in 1970. The brothers were in the big leagues almost from birth, making them familiar to many of the old-time managers and coaches.

The parents were back in Puerto Rico for the funeral. They didn't give their sons too many details, not wanting to ruin their concentration.

Maybe this finally vaulted him past his younger brother into baseball's spotlight. While Sandy has the famous first name, until now Roberto has had the flashy talent.

Roberto is the eight-time all-star, the high-priced free agent, the best second baseman in the game. (AP)

Gerhard Berger's Father Dies in Plane Crash

VIENNA - Johann Berger, father of Austrian Formula One driver Gerhard Berger, died early on Wednesday after his private plane crashed in the Alpine region of Tirol, local police said.

Berger, 62, flew into a Wooded Mountain at a height of about 700 meters in thick fog, a spokesman said. He had been travelling alone and was on his way to the Westernmost Austrian Province of Vorarlberg. (Reuter)

Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

By Master Ja'far Qasempour Jahangir

Skills of Kung Fu

Controlling Breath and Mind

(Part 47)

External method, is slow. But in both methods inhaling takes place rapidly. In all breathing methods of Kung Fu, the muscles of abdomen are involved. It is the same in breathing methods of Zen, Yuga, and Tao. These methods strengthen the tendon. Consequently the power and speed of blows and kicks increase.

Tendon, provided proper technique is applied, will lead to the unity and strengthening of both mind and body. Great significance must be attached to the coordination of mind and body as it is responsible for generating power and boosting the speed. That is why tendon power is considered so significant.

On the other hand, the nature of Kung Fu exercises play an important role in strengthening the tendon.

"Shaolinsou" martial art, too, is based on instructions of Budhidarma. The positions in the exercises of those days are seen in 18 Budha positions of Shaolinsou method. It is said that Budhidarma had been in state of meditation for nine years. This is an unordinary method of life. It is interesting that he used to teach the rules of exercises while he was in state of meditation. It seems that he had been in favor of bare-hand self defense. The reason was that while it was not appropriate for a religious man to carry any kind of weapons, self defense, self-preservation and exercises played and still play a major role in maintaining a person's general health. So, with passage of time, Chinese Zen has been transformed from bare hand combat to exercises based on meditation accompanied by words that are called Kuan.

Brazil's Nunes Set to Join Benfica

LISBON — Brazilian international striker Paulo Nunes looks set to join Benfica from Brazil's Gremio in a deal which should make him the most expensive player in the Portuguese league.

A Benfica spokesman said on Wednesday that the player was expected in Lisbon in the next few days to undergo Medical tests and sign a four-year contract.

"I can confirm the purchase of Paulo Nunes", said Jose Teixeira who declined to give any financial details.

Gremio chairman Luis Silveira Martins, however, was quoted by Portuguese sports daily *Bola* on Wednesday as saying the deal was worth $10 million.

Nunes, 26, recently extended his contract with Gremio until 2000. (Reuter)



GOETTINGEN, Germany (July 7): Helmut Stockfisch presents, in Goettingen, his online-skater powered by a 2-horsepower-22cc-engine, which he developed in cooperation with three friends. This device is operated by a hand-held remote control and runs approximately 30 km/h. During a test run the Goettingen police caught the driver as he went fast down a road. The motor-skates are supposed to be an advertising sample for online skater producers. (AFP PHOTO)

TEHRAN TIMES

Muslim Brotherhood to Boycott Jordanian Elections

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood, Jordan's largest opposition group, announced Wednesday that it would boycott parliamentary elections to be held in November.

The Brotherhood's 30-member consultative council, or "Shura," decided at an overnight meeting not to participate in the elections, the Brotherhood leader Abdel Majid Zeneibat said in a statement.

"The Shura of the Brotherhood movement has decided to boycott the general elections for the year 1997," the brief statement said, adding that another communique outlining reasons for the move would be released later.

A source close to the group said that a majority of the members of the council had decided that taking part in the vote would be "useless."

"The executive branch governs alone and takes important decisions without referring to the people," said the source who requested anonymity.

"Since the peace treaty was signed between Jordan and Israel, and which was opposed by a great number of Jordanians, the government has acted as if Parliament doesn't exist," the source added.

The boycott decision means that the Islamic Action Front — the party which follows the Brotherhood's political line — will officially stay out of the elections, although some may decide to run as independent candidates.

The Brotherhood is not a political party in its own right but is a major player from behind the scenes. It has led a campaign against Jordan's october 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

Nine smaller leftist and Arab nationalist parties are now expected to take their cue from the front and stay out of the November elections.

A Jordanian government official said he regretted the boycott decision.

(AFP)

Pakistan Peace Mediator Claims Progress in Afghan Talks

ISLAMABAD — A senior Pakistani official trying to mediate peace between Afghan rivals said Wednesday his talks with Taleban leaders had marked a "step forward" in the process.

Iftikhar Murshid, who met with the Taleban militia's acting Foreign Minister Mullah Abdul Jalil in Kandahar in southwest Afghanistan, said he would travel to the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif in a couple of days.

Mazar-i-Sharif is an opposition stronghold and base of northern Uzbek leader General Abdul Malik, who is allied with former President Burhanuddin Rabbani and the Shia Muslim Hezb-i-Wahdat faction in an anti-Taleban alliance.

"There is a step forward in that they (the Taleban) are willing to consider in a positive manner the proposed formation of a joint council (with the opposition)," to work towards a settlement, Murshid told AFP.

The opposition alliance proposed in talks with Murshid last month that a joint political commission be set up to discuss a cease-fire, exchange of prisoners and the formation of a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

But the opposition wants such a commission to meet in a "demilitarized" Kabul, which has been flatly rejected by the Taleban who control the capital since ousting Rabbani in September last year.

The Taleban also control about two-thirds of the war-torn country with 22 Afghan provinces in its possession against the opposition's eight.

Pakistan, which recognized the Taleban government in May, intends to host an intra-Afghan meeting if the mediation effort succeeds in bringing the rivals to the negotiating table.

(AFP)

40 Kurds Killed in Clashes

ANKARA — Forty Kurds of the separatist Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) have been killed during Turkish military operations in the southeast of the country over the past four days, a regional military headquarters statement said Wednesday.

The clashes occurred in Van, Hakkari, Bitlis, Mardin and Tunceli provinces bordering Iran, Iraq and Syria.

One Kurdish militant was captured and four others surrendered to the military, the statement said.

(AFP)

Advertise in Tehran Times

(Contd From Pg. 1)

ONE...

Peker said he would support Yilmaz' government in a parliamentary confidence vote on Saturday, according to Anatolia. In the meantime he would remain independent.

With Peker's support, Yilmaz now is backed by a clear majority of 281 deputies in the 550-seat Parliament.

Peker also became the 14th deputy to defect from Ciller's party since Yilmaz was asked by President Suleyman Demirel to form a new government on June 20.

Yilmaz replaced Islamist Necmettin Erbakan, Ciller's political ally, who stepped down as prime minister on June 18, ending a turbulent 12-month term which included serious rifts with Turkey's pro-secular military.

Those quitting True Path at different times have all protested against Ciller's alliance with the Islamists, which made Erbakan secular Turkey's first Islamist premier in June last year.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

ISLAMIC...

More than one hundred Muslim and Christian figures will attend the Egypt-based religious institution's conference.

They will discuss "56 studies concerning the historical ties between Islam and the West, Islam's position on non-Muslims in Muslim countries, the West's position toward Muslims and dialogue" between the two sides, he said in a statement.

Invitations were sent to 187 Muslims and Christians from 82 states, including 23 prime ministers, 16 ministers and representatives from four Islamic organizations.

Zaqzuq said the Egyptian Orthodox, or Coptic, church and Christians or Muslims from Asian, European and American countries, including a Vatican envoy will take part in the conference.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

GAMBIAN...

had been one of the main goals behind his visits to Syria and Tunisia.

He said that outcome of the first session of Tehran-Tunis Joint Economic Commission had been "positive and constructive" leading to the signing of a memorandum of understanding by the two countries.

Expansion of cooperation with Muslim states is among Iran's major policies, said Velayati, adding that it did not at all rejects cooperation with industrial states.

Islamic solidarity is on top of the agenda of the forthcoming OIC summit in Tehran, concluded Velayati.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

MILOSEVIC...

Banja Luka is Plavsic's power base and the site where she is insisting the meeting with Milosevic take place.

On Wednesday Plavsic turned down Milosevic's proposal that she and Momcilo Krajisnik, the Serb member of Bosnia's three-member presidency, attend talks in Belgrade to try to end her political battle with Bosnian Serb hardliners.

She said she could not accept an invitation to Belgrade, where she was detained for two hours by police at the airport last month, but told Milosevic he was welcome to Banja Luka.

In a letter to Milosevic, Plavsic cited her detention for two hours by police at Belgrade airport last month as the reason for not accepting his invitation.

"After my detention and forced transfer at Belgrade airport on June 29, I cannot go to Belgrade for a meeting," she told Milosevic.

On June 29, Plavsic was detained for two hours by police at Belgrade airport on a flight from London.

"Talks with Krajisnik have not taken place because he is pressuring me to come to Pale," the administrative center of the Serb-run half of Bosnia, Plavsic said.

The Bosnian Serb leader, however, invited Milosevic to travel to Banja Luka to negotiate a solution to the crisis.

Krajisnik accepted Milosevic's invitation, the Serb News Agency SRNA said.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

IRAN...

Muslim women wear to cover their bodies.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have voiced a growing desire to improve relations and have stepped up coordination within such groupings as OPEC and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

IF...

Lauding Iran's treatment of religious minorities such as Jews and Christians, Abdur Razzak said that Iranian minorities have their own representatives in the Iranian Parliament. Iran is a model country in which the minorities are given their due rights.

In Germany there are more than seven million Muslims, but they don't have their own representatives. In Iran, even the small minorities have their own representatives in the Majlis (Parliament), and they have the right to observe their religious rituals with no control over them.

Iran has become a model for the contemporary world because it is an example of a state which gives rights to religious minorities.

Asked about U.S. accusations against Iran and the goals Washington follows, Razzak said that the U.S. has become a policeman of the world, and wants to have control over the United Nations Security Council. It want to show to the international community that Muslims are backward and criminals, who would pose a danger to the world.

The main reason behind such propaganda campaign is that they see Iran has developed in every field and is becoming a model to the other countries. Therefore, the U.S. tries to hinder Iran's development. By accusing Iran of seeking nuclear or chemical weapons and violating human rights, the U.S. wants to sow discord and division among Muslims. By accusing Iran of violating women's rights, Washington wants to convince the international community that women are deprived in Iran.

However, women have nine MPs in the Iranian Majlis, and Iranian women are very active in the social and political scene while wearing Islamic dress.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, which was once considered an enemy of capitalism, the focus has shifted to Islam. The U.S. doesn't want to see that Islam is developed, and through these accessions, Washington tries to undermine the image of Islamic Iran.

If something happens against religious minorities in Iran, the U.S. will display it on TV; the U.S. media will blow up the case in order to show the world that Muslim Iranians are dangerous to the world.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

PRESIDENT...

eternal and said that the labor law is progressive and serves the interests of the workers.

Before the president's speech, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Hussein Kamali gave a report on the performance of his ministry in providing welfare for workers. He said 35 million shares of the state-owned manufacturing units have been ceded to the workers.

Kamali on behalf of the workers awarded the president a medal of honor.

(IRNA)

(Contd From Pg. 5)

EGYPT...

again. It seems to have slowed down since last year. I think the next step they've got to focus on is trade reform. They've got to get serious about getting their tariffs down," the World Bank's Ikram said.

The government has acted to shed its holdings in state companies and aimed to dismantle bureaucracy with a new investment law. Boutros-Ghali inherits an economy which has gained investment-grade ratings from standard and poors.

Egyptian year-on-year inflation fell to 4.9 percent in May, from 5.4 percent in April and 8.1 percent in May 1996.

As minister of state for economic affairs, he helped showcase Egypt's reforms at an international investment conference in Cairo in May, where he told Reuters foreign direct investment was expected to be $1.5 billion in 1997 from between $800 million to $900 million in 1996.

The stock market index fell in June to the 350-340 point range, its lowest since January. The record this year was 427 points in February.

Asked if he saw the cabinet changes having any short term impact on the economy, such as on the stock market or pound, which has been strengthening recently, the IMF's subramanian said:

"I think that if you believe that fundamentals determine all these aspects of the economy, I don't expect any sort of significant blip one way or the other."

He said there was conviction to carry reforms forward.

"The reforms have begun to deliver. Economic growth rates have gone up and are going up. And of course these reforms have been resoundingly endorsed by international financial markets.

"So the discipline in globalization is something that the government is keenly aware of, and that will also induce the government to continue the reform process," he added.

(Reuter)

(Contd From Pg. 5)

YUGOSLAV...

50 percent of the country's prewar 1991 level, with up to 400,000 people receiving late wages and as many engaged in the grey economy.

"The volume of the public spending additionally hinders the revival of the country's Moribund economy," one Western analyst, who asked not to be named, said.

"But once the country strikes a deal with the International Monetary Fund, the ruling socialists will be forced to embark on a radical and painful reduction in public spending — primarily cuts in army, police and state administration," the source said.

(Reuter)

(Contd From Pg. 12)

SUMMER'S...

dictable summer weather, such as the cold rain that has battered much of the country straight through this week, have helped.

The government initially planned a huge campaign with lots of fanfare and posters to get the "Bonjour" message across — until critics questioned whether such a public airing of personality flaws might discourage potential visitors.

So the campaign was toned down. A key feature is an "in-house" guide for professionals to help them "know their foreign tourists". It is chock-full of practical tips, from a lexicon of useful words in six languages to conversion charts and a list of foreign school vacation periods.

But the real bonus are the 30 or so nationality pages that give tips on different cultures, their customs and how they perceive the French.

It says Americans, for instance, like rectangular pillows (not the square French ones), have loud voices, hate organ meats and think the French are cultivated but a bit suspicious.

The British cannot abide frog legs, tend to be phlegmatic though polite, love French food though are known for eating the cheese after dessert, and find the French a bit too chatty and disorganized — unlike Italians who, the guide says, find the French well organized and want their "kids treated like kings."

Australians like big beds, big meals, love the French and want Kleenex in their rooms, while Swedes are shy, rarely shake hands, like (wide) twin beds, the French countryside and Disneyland Paris.

The Japanese appreciate French elegance, savoir-vivre and Paris shopping but are superstitious and like order. Never look a Japanese directly in the eye, never raise your voice to them and remember, they hate meals in sauce.

The other handy item on each page is a phonetic translation of simple words reminding professionals, for example, to say *"sank you veri meutch"* to Anglophones, before you wish them *"goud baille."*

(AFP)

(Contd. From Pg. 9)

UKRAINIAN.....

Moscow, where President Boris Yeltsin has repeatedly spoken out against ex-communist bloc countries, particularly ex-Soviet republics like Ukraine, going over to the alliance.

"I am 100-percent for these exercises," said Joanna Nilivok in Lvov. "Ukraine should become a member of NATO because it is the only way we can defend ourselves."

Yeltsin's affirmations in May that there was an "inviolable" "Slav fraternity" between Russians and Ukrainians, drew nothing but laughter in Lvov.

Western Ukraine is markedly more in favor of Ukrainian independence than the eastern part of the country and the Crimean Peninsula, where there is an ethnic-Russian majority.

Lvov and western Ukraine were long under the rule of the Austro-Hungarian empire, then Poland, only coming under Soviet rule in 1939.

People there speak Ukrainian, not Russian, and feel close cultural links to Central Europe, not Moscow.

Eastern Ukraine and Crimea however have been under Russian rule for three centuries and Russian is the principal language.

(AFP)

Chinese I
Hando



India's Ruling
in the Balan



هكذا من الأصل

Chinese President Reaps Handover Rewards

BEIJING— Chinese President Jiang Zemin, who enjoyed a moment of triumph as the world watched the return of Hong Kong, is now well placed to be officially chosen as the country's new supreme leader at the next Communist Party congress.

"Hong Kong was the first test on the way to his coronation and it seems he was successful," said a Western diplomat.

"Jiang is trying hard to appear as the leader responsible for a united and powerful China, as many television viewers are discovering for the first time."

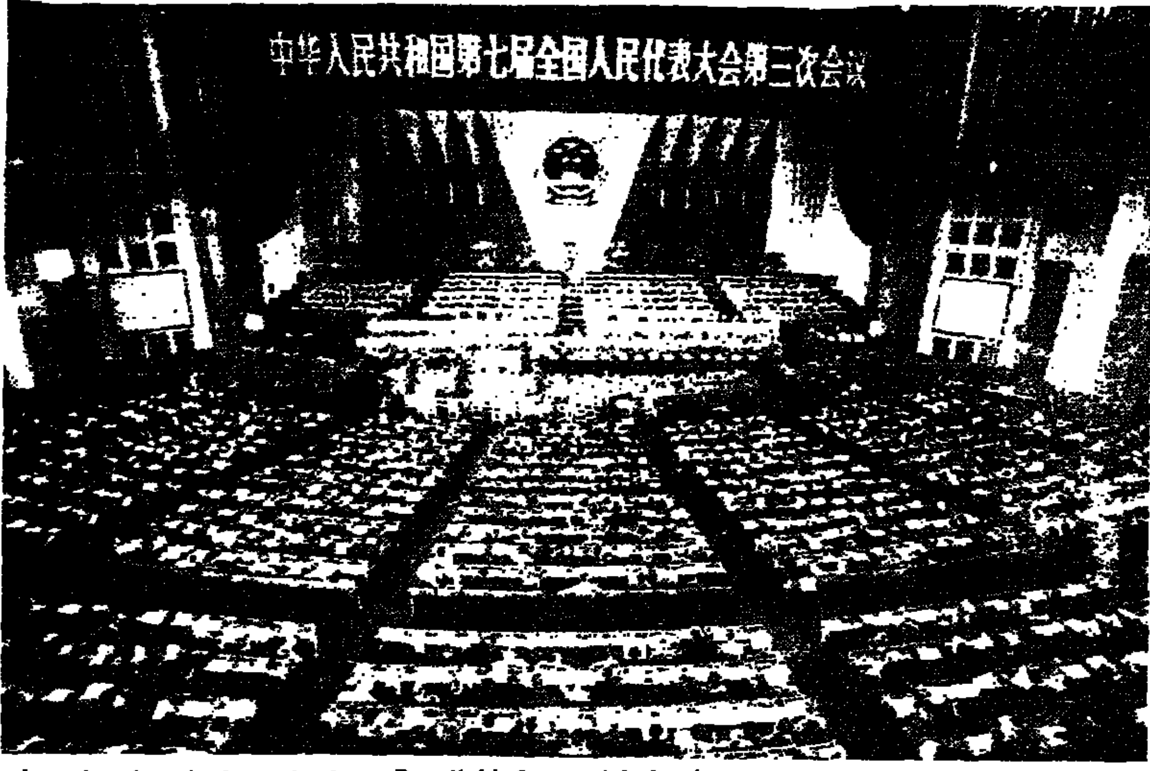
But the handover of the former British colony was only one step and the results will not come to fruition until the 15th party congress in October, as the official party organ, the People's Daily, said Monday, calling "all the party cadres and the Chinese people to unite behind the leadership of President Jiang Zemin and now look towards the 15th congress."

This huge ceremony, held every five years, is the moment of truth for successive leaders, after they have battled between themselves in the struggle for power.

Since the death in February of China's patriarch Deng Xiaoping, Jiang, now 71, who holds the posts of head of state, the party and the army, has tried hard to move from being regarded as heir apparent to being recognized as Deng's successor.

"The gloves are off at the congress and Jiang's rivals won't be making it easy for him," said another diplomat.

The competition rules are also being laid down. Analysts noted the remarkable absence during the Hong Kong ceremonies of Qiao Shi, president of the parliament and number three in the regime's hierarchy.



"Qiao Shi was deliberately left out of the festivities by Jiang, while Li Peng (the prime minister), number two in the regime, was in high profile in both Hong Kong and Beijing," the diplomat said, noting "the sharing of roles between Jiang and Li still works well."

But Qiao has certainly not had his final word and the preparatory meetings for the congress which will be organized this summer, probably in Beidaihe, southeast of Beijing, are likely to be lively.

Jiang will not truly be able to take on the mantle as leader until he starts political reform, many analysts believe.

"China's economic success is attributed to vice premier Zhu Rongji, his former right-hand man from his days running Shanghai," an analyst of Chinese politics said. "But in the wider scheme of things Jiang suffers from a lack of political and ideological theories."

With the return of Hong Kong just completed, Jiang must keep up the attack on a far more ambitious project: reunification with Taiwan.

"It is a sacred mission for all candidates hoping for the supreme leadership," the expert said.

Late Tuesday as he returned from Hong Kong Jiang called on the Taiwanese authorities to follow the example of the former British colony and take "concrete measures" towards reunification.

Taipei immediately replied by saying the "one country, two systems" formula, which will allow Hong Kong to retain a capitalist system for 50 years, could never be applied to Taiwan.

Even in January 1995 an "eight-point proposal" put forward by Jiang to Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui was rejected by Taipei.

Lee is still paying the penalty for insulting Jiang by making a "private" visit to the United States, which provoked Beijing's anger and threatened dialogue across the strait.

"Jiang was criticized inside the party and today he must show his imagination," said a diplomat. "But it is a very difficult path."

China has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province since the nationalists fled there in 1949 at the end of a civil war.

(AFP)

India's Ruling Coalition Hangs in the Balance After Split

NEW DELHI— The fate of the Indian government hung in the balance Monday as allies of the ruling coalition took stock following a major weekend split in the dominant party.

The multi-party United Front, rocked by turmoil in Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's Janata Dal (People's Party) after a corruption-tainted leader walked out, facing flak from all quarters on Monday.

The Congress (I), which helps the minority government survive through outside parliamentary support, gave mixed signals after outgoing Janata Dal chief Laloo Prasad Yadav formed a breakaway faction.

A day after the party president said the Congress would continue to back the front, K. Vijaybhaskara Reddy, a member of the party's decision-making Congress working committee, said : "the writing on the wall is clear and everybody knows that snap polls are inevitable.

A.B. Bardhan, General Secretary of the Communist Party of India, a member of the ruling coalition, conceded the government had lost face.

"Everybody in the United Front has suffered a loss of image," he said.

The prime minister, however, put on a brave face after the split, which was underlined on Sunday when the Janata Dal elected a new president, Sharad Yadav, to replace Laloo Yadav.

"I am not bothered," the Asian Age Monday quoted Gujral as saying. "My bags are always packed."

The Economic Times said the split had long-reaching implications.

"Although (it) poses ... no immediate threat, it undoubtedly eats into the coalition government's already tenuous life expectancy," the newspaper said.

"With mounting instability in the largest party of the front, it is only natural that the Congress should feel emboldened to ask for its rightful due."

The Congress, which has 140 members of parliament in the 545-seat lower house compared to the United Front's 180, withdrew support to the front earlier this year but renewed its backing after a change of guard.

The Communist Party of India said the government had been "undermined" but ruled out fresh polls.

It, however, maintained that it would try to evict Yadav from his home province of Bihar which he rules.

"The communist parties are launching a civil disobedience movement in Bihar from the 17th. We expect the people's fury to be unleashed and thousands will court arrest. The jails will be filled. Laloo will have to go."

Laloo Prasad Yadav is among more than 50 Bihar politicians and bureaucrats implicated in a 271-million-dollar fodder scandal dating back to the early 1970s. He has denied all allegations.

Yadav claims to have lured away 18 members of parliament with him in his new Rashtriya Janata Dal (National People's Party), including three ministers, but says he wants to remain inside the coalition.

Another senior communist leader said Gujral had to take a stand against the three ministers who had joined Yadav.

"The prime minister should ask them to make a choice between remaining in the government or joining Yadav. he can't remain silent on the issue which is basically of corruption."

The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), the largest single party in parliament, Sunday said fresh general elections were a must because of the disarray within the coalition.

"In the present circumstances, a mid-term election is the only answer," the BJP's Krishan Lal Sharma said. "Without another election, there cannot be a stable government at the center."

(AFP)

France to Avoid NATO Crisis Over New Members

PARIS—France will staunchly defend the candidatures of Romania and Slovenia to join NATO at the alliance's Madrid summit next week, but has pledged not to provoke a crisis by blocking the application of the Czech Republic, Hungary or Poland.

The main aim of Paris is to ensure that Romania and Slovenia will be part of a second wave of admissions to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

French leaders seem resigned to the fact that they will not be able to overcome US opposition to the applications by Bucharest and Ljubljana, just as they were unable to budge the US veto on a second mandate for UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

"It is unthinkable to take hostage a decision of the alliance on three countries, on which everyone agrees," said Elysee spokeswoman Catherine Colonna at a briefing Friday setting out France's expectations of the landmark summit.

However she added: "the alliance must keep its door open." The United States is opposed to expanding the alliance by five more countries, and has stood firm by the candidacies of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.

President Bill Clinton, who had announced abruptly in June that only three countries would be invited to join in Madrid on Tuesday and Wednesday, stressed on Thursday evening that he would not alter his position under any circumstances.

The summit of the 16 NATO countries will review the alliance's expansion eastward after the conclusion with Russia of a cooperation accord aimed at easing the absorption of several of Moscow's former satellites.

President Jacques Chirac will be France's sole representaive at the summit after new socialist prime minister Lionel Jospin made it known he would not attend as he was "not attached to formal representation roles."

But on this matter, one of those on which president and government share responsibility, the two sides are on the same wavelength and said as much in a joint communique.

For Paris, Romania and Slovenia "meet all the conditions to be part of the first group," along with the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.

Colonna said that in Madrid, Chirac "will say why the admission of these two now-democratic countries, at peace with their neighbours and having overcome their differences, would strengthen the geographic cohesion of the alliance."

But while France, with the backing of eight other NATO members, will plead forcefully for Romanian and Slovenian membership, it does not want to prevent the entry of the three eastern European countries on which consensus exists.

Chirac has repeatedly pledged to back those countries' membership both of NATO and of the European union.

Clinton opened the door to a compromise on Thursday, hinting to foreign reporters gathered at the White House that new invitations could be issued as early as 1999.

"This is a first wave of enlargement, but we want Romania and Slovenia to be considered right now, under a form to be negotiated, to be determined, Colonna said."

Added to this difference of opinion between Paris and Washington is the vexed question of the alliance's US-led southern command based in Naples, in which France wants a greater European role.

On Wednesday, France said the lack of an agreement on this thorny subject barred its return to NATO's integrated military command. Paris pulled out of the arrangement in 1966 under the late president Charles de Gaulle.

However France does not intend to raise this matter in Madrid, preferring to wait till after the summit to pursue discussions on "a new sharing out of responsibilities" between Europeans and Americans.

(AFP)

Chinese Communist Party Grows Larger and Younger

BEIJING — Capitalism may be thriving in China's market economy, but communism is also holding its own, according to the Communist Party of China (CPC) which claimed Tuesday a 20 percent membership increase.

The latest statistics from the CPC organization department revealed a national membership of 58 million — up 9.92 million or 20.6 percent from five years ago, the Xinhua news agency said.

The figure also translates into a ratio of one party member for every 20 Chinese.

According to party officials, the rise in membership followed a campaign — launched after the 14th national party congress in 1992 — to rectify and restore grassroots cells across the country, especially in rural areas.

(AFP)

Stamp-Fancier Thief Wore Tights Against Bites

***HONG KONG** — Police detected several odd things about burglar Yeung Tung-San.*

First, he ignored traditional booty in household raids, stealing only stamps because he was a collector.

Then there were two pairs panty-hose tights he wore to protect himself from mosquito bites as he ransacked an unoccupied home.

Yeung, 21, who admitted burglary, was found with 31 stamps and two first-day covers, prized collector items.

(Reuter)

Mother Tries to Sell Baby for $30

***CAIRO** — A tearful mother offered her 40-day-old baby to a passerby in central Cairo for 100 Egyptian pounds ($30) because the father refused to acknowledge him, a news report said Wednesday.*

The "new mother" went to the police station to fill out an adoption statement, but the police refused and she went to search for the birth mother.

Brought before prosecutors for negligence, the mother insisted on giving up her child, and the prosecutors put the baby in a home.

(AFP)



Boiled Egg Row Triggers Indian Strike

NEW DELHI — More than 6,000 government employees in the Indian state of Gujarat have gone on strike after one worker was attacked by hardline Hindus for distributing eggs to school children, the Press Trust of India reported Wednesday. They refused to return to work until the attackers were arrested. The Hindu extremists, who were commited vegetarians, stopped B.J. Bhatt who was handing out the boiled eggs as part of a government scheme to improve child nutrition. They forced an egg into his mouth and then pelted him with the rest. They said Bhatt had "hurt the sentiments of the Hindus", many of whom are vegetarians.

Three Bombs Explode in Eastern Spain

BARCELONA — Three bombs exploded on Wednesday on beaches along Spain's northeastern coast, causing no damage or injury.

British Man Gored in Spain's Bull Run

PAMPLONA, Spain — A British man was slightly hurt on Wednesday after being gored in the arm during a bull run on the third day of Spain's famous San Fermin Festival in Pamplona.

Shooting Breaks Out at Sierra Leone Airport

FREETOWN — Shelling or mortar fire broke out at the international airport in Sierra Leone's capital Freetown on Wednesday but it was not immediately clear who was firing at whom.

Saudi Arabia Beheads Saudi National for Murder

DUBAI — Saudi Arabia on Wednesday beheaded a Saudi man for murdering another Saudi in a dispute, raising to 63 the number of people put to death in the kingdom this year.

Man Kills 4, Turns Gun on Himself

BEIRUT — A 70-year-old Lebanese man killed four people and wounded two others in a shooting spree that started with a dispute over a parking space, police said Tuesday.

Seven Dead in Colombian Bloodletting

BOGOTA — At least seven people were killed and 15 others injured, including two children, in political bloodletting across Colombia on Tuesday.

Three Dead, 187 Injured in Ecuador Blast

QUITO — At least three people were killed and 187 injured when an explosion tore through an Ecuadoran Army ammunition store on a military base near the capital Quito on Tuesday.

Sudanese Woman Gives Birth to Quadruplets

ABU DHABI — A Sudanese woman living in the United Arab Emirates has given birth to quadruplets, all of whom are in good health, doctors said Wednesday.

Indian Police Kill Two After Railway Riot

NEW DELHI — Indian police fired into a crowd of railway commuters, killing two and injuring three others on Wednesday.



Eight Turkish Prisoners Killed in Rioting

ANKARA — Eight Turkish prisoners were killed and 11 injured overnight in rioting in an Istanbul prison to protest against poor conditions, NTV television reported early Wednesday.

Anatolia news agency said five people had died and five been injured.

Police stormed the city's Metris Jail early Wednesday to end the rioting while firefighters intervened to put out a fire started by the prisoners in one of the buildings, the source said.

The fire broke out when rioters set fire to their beds and sheets. It took nine hours to put out the blaze.

(AFP)

Students Clash With Kenya Police

NAIROBI — Students on a second campus of Nairobi University clashed with police on Wednesday and set vehicles ablaze as violence spread over calls for constitutional reforms, witnesses said.

The clashes at Kabete Campus 16 km (10 miles) northwest of Nairobi took place as a heavily armed paramilitary force stormed the main campus in the city center, breaking down doors, looting and vandalizing student rooms, the witnesses said. (Reuter)

Cambodia Royals Allowed to Flee as Airport Reopens

PHNOM PENH — Members of Cambodia's royal family and leading party officials took a window of opportunity to flee on Wednesday as a gap in the fighting allowed a resumption of some commercial flights from the tense capital.

Three days after the ouster of first Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, co-Premier Hun Sen's forces consolidated their control of major towns while the execution of a senior member of Ranariddh's Party cowed Royalists remaining in the capital.

Ranariddh's sister, Princess Bopha Devi, and his son, Prince Norodom Chakravuth, were the most prominent members of the royal family to leave.

The princess was believed to have been on a flight to Bangkok while Chakravuth left on a later flight to Singapore.

Some nine other members of the family plus senior officials from Ranariddh's Royalist Funcinpec Party and cabinet flew to Singapore and Bangkok, the witnesses said.

The airport was heavily guarded by forces loyal to Hun Sen, but no attempts were made to stop the family members or the party officials from leaving, they said.

International commercial flights also resumed from Phnom Penh's Airport on Wednesday,



four days after fighting in the capital closed the facility and left the newly renovated terminal in ruins.

However, Cambodia's Southeast Asian neighbors were still evacuating their nationals on special flights from the capital. (Reuter)

Tigers Return Body of N.Korean Killed on Hijacked Ship

COLOMBO — Tamil Tiger guerrillas Wednesday returned the body of a North Korean seaman killed by them during the hijacking of a merchant vessel in northern Sri Lanka, the International Red Cross here said.

The body of the unidentified man was given to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) somewhere in the north of country to be brought to the capital Colombo in a day or two, spokesman Christopher Martin said.

"We are still talking about the procedure to follow in handing over the balance 37 crew members abducted by the LTTE," Martin said, adding that he was not aware of the ICRC being allowed to see the seamen yet.

However, he said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels had wanted to release all the 37 crew members of the North Korean-owned cargo vessel, the MV Morang Bong, which was captured by them on Tuesday.

Martin expected the foreigners to be released in a "day or two".

(AFP)

Indian Communists Denounce PM's Inaction Over 'Rebel' Ministers

NEW DELHI — Communists in India's ruling coalition Wednesday attacked Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral for refusing to dismiss three ministers who triggered a political crisis by defecting from his party.

The Communist Party of India (CPI), a member of the minority United Front government, and the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), which supports it from the outside, said they would not compromise on the issue.

"We will see how adamant he is," said CPI-M head Karkishan Singh Surieet following Gujral's comments that he would retain the three ministers in his center-left coalition despite their defections to a new party.

Gujral's Janata Dal (People's Party), the dominant partner in the already-fragile United Front Coalition, split at the weekend when its then-President Laloo Prasad Yadav launched a breakaway faction. (AFP)

Australian PM Hits Back at Critics as Race Row Flares Into Violence

SYDNEY — Prime Minister John Howard hit back at critics of his handling of Australia's increasingly bitter race debate as it flared into violent confrontation for the second day running.

Supporters of right-wing MP Pauline Hanson accused police Wednesday of not doing enough after a meeting to launch her anti-Asia One Nation Party was again disrupted by violent protest in Canberra on Tuesday night.

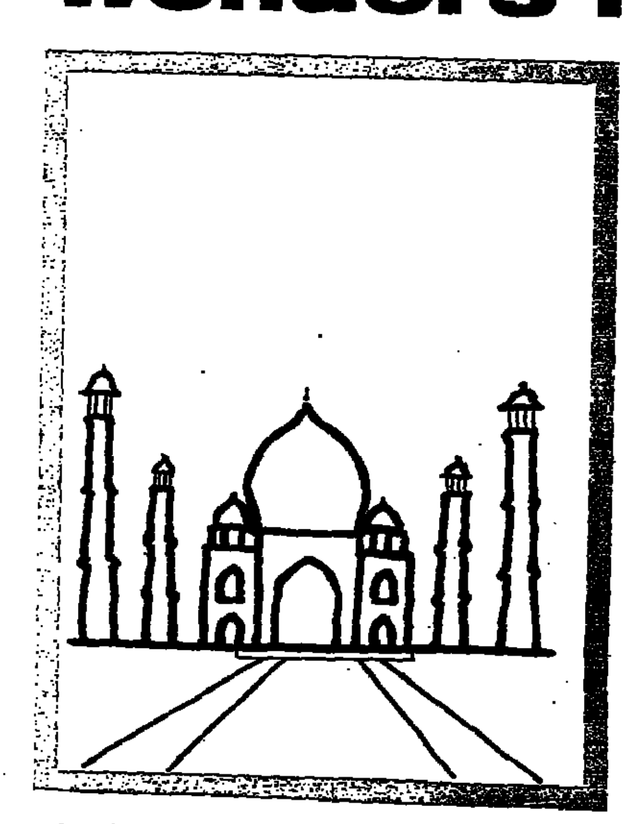
Two demonstrators were arrested as more than 1,000 protesters unleashed their hatred of racism by hurling abuse at the 120 Hanson supporters who came to the meeting.

The clash followed a violent demonstration in Melbourne late Monday as protesters hurled eggs at Hanson fans, one of whom ended in hospital with head injuries. Three police were injured and seven protesters were charged.

Howard meanwhile warned he would no longer accept "unreasonable, ill-founded and uninformed" criticism of Australia's record on racial tolerance.

(AFP)

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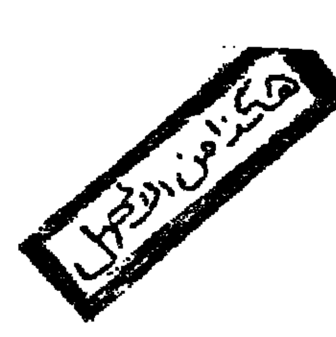
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Charges of Asian-American Discrimination Tinge Finance Hearings

WASHINGTON — Fears that Senate hearings on campaign finance could unfairly portray Asian-Americans were a recurrent theme as the widely publicized proceedings began Tuesday.

The leading Democratic senator on the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, John Glenn, said that the key figure in the campaign finance scandal wanted to testify with limited immunity in an effort to repair the damage already done to the U.S. Asian-American community's reputation.

Glenn said he had been told that a "guiding principle" in the life of former Commerce Department official John Huang "has been to promote the interests of the Asian-American community. He believes the interests of that community have been harmed by the allegations surrounding him."

Huang — a Chinese-born U.S. citizen — had previously refused to testify before the panel, citing his right against incriminating himself.

Glenn said that Huang was now seeking immunity against election laws but not "for any act of espionage or for any offense prosecutable for the disclosure of classified information or for acting as an agent for any foreign government."

Huang was a senior official in the U.S. Commerce Department before joining the Democratic National Committee as a fundraiser while still maintaining a top security clearance and making frequent White House visits.

Almost half the $3.4 million he raised for Democrats in the 1996 campaign — mostly from Asian-Americans — had to be returned because the contributions were found to be illegal or suspect.

"We're aware of the charges of Asian-bashing," said Paul Clark, an aide to the Republican senator presiding over the hearings, Fred Thompson.

"I think it's unfortunate for the Asian-American community that many of the people deeply involved in this are Asians, but it's certainly not limited to them," he said.

That point was repeated as the proceedings began Tuesday by Democratic Denator Daniel Akaka, who represents Hawaii and is of Chinese ancestry.

"Asian Pacific Americans should not be held to a higher standard than other citizens," he said.

"Nor should we believe that all Asian Pacific American political contributions are suspect. We must not be guilty of selective harassment of those with Asian surnames," Akaka added.

Akaka said the public should be "gravely concerned" if foreign companies or countries have influenced the U.S. electoral process.

"I strongly condemn illegal fund-raising activities. But I do not hold all Asian Pacific Americans responsible for the alleged actions of a few," he said.

(AFP)

Yugoslav Tax System Faces Collapse, Needs Reform

BELGRADE — Belgrade economists on Tuesday warned the country's fiscal system was in total collapse and called for cuts in public spending to adjust it with the country's economic strength.

"The fiscal system is in collapse and cannot secure collection of funds for commitments the state has undertaken to meet," Aleksandra Posarac, an economist of the Belgrade-based Institute of Economic Sciences (IEN) said.

Public spending was planned with insufficient rigour and the government manages to collect a little over 60 percent of its projected revenues, she told Reuters.

According to IEN's report, in the January-May period this year only 53 percent of the planned revenues were collected for the federal coffers, 70 percent for Serbian and 67 percent for Montenegrin budgets.

The health and pension funds have collected only 60 percent of planned revenues each.

"State coffers are empty and the government simply does not have the money to meet its obligations and promises," Stojan Stamenkovic, another IEN economist, said.

"Planned budget revenues are unrealistic and could be realized only with a more than 50 percent annual inflation," Stamenkovic said.

But retail prices this year have stabilized, rising only 0.2 percent in May, and dropping 0.1 percent in June.

In May, after an upward trend in February, March and April, public revenues dropped to 3.288 billion dinars ($568.9 million), down 7.9 percent or 274 million dinars on April. Yugoslavia generates income from sales and income taxes and customs duties.

The government has forecast 1997 public spending at 47.5 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which is planned to rise 13 percent to 103.28 billion dinars.

Analysts estimate public spending accounts for 50-55 percent of GDP.

The percentage would be even higher if para-fiscal deficit (outstanding pensions, wages, social benefits) was included, Posarac said.

"State's outstanding debt to the citizens accumulated to some 10 billion dinars by the end of May. It is obvious it will grow as only the pension fund deficit stands at 400 million dinars each month," she said.

The government owes five billion dinars to the pension fund alone, half of which was carried over from the previous year. Another 1.7 billion dinars is owed for child, maternity and other social benefits.

"Social benefits designed to help those with no income and who live below the subsistence level simply do not exist. They are almost one year late," Posarac said.

The government simply cannot afford such high public spending with production standing at some

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Ex-Soviet Azerbaijan Applies to Join WTO

GENEVA — The oil-rich ex-Soviet state of Azerbaijan has submitted a formal request to be considered for membership of the World Trade Organization (WTO), trade officials said on Tuesday.

The request is to be discussed at the next meeting of the 131-member WTO's ruling General Council on July 16.

If there are no objections, the council is likely to set up a working party to provide a forum for negotiations and preparation of a protocol of accession, a process likely to take at least two years, according to trade diplomats.

Azerbaijan will have to demonstrate that it is bringing its once strictly state-controlled economy onto open market lines and make detailed commitment to open up to goods and services from other countries.

But trade sources said that in initial contacts with the WTO it had already promised to work to ensure that its trade practices were in line with the body's rules and declared it had already moved to liberalize.

The Caspian Sea state is the 13th of the 15 republics of the old Soviet Union — which itself stood aloof from the WTO's predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade or GATT — to apply to join the body.

Russia has been in negotiations for over four years and trade diplomats say it is unlikely to be admitted until well into next year.

Of the other two big ex-soviet states, Ukraine has been negotiating for nearly four years, and Kazakhstan began formal talks in a working party earlier this year.

The only former Soviet Republics who have not yet applied are Turkmenistan, with which Azerbaijan is in dispute over a Russian-Azeri oil deal agreed last week, and Tajikistan which has been torn by civil conflict since independence in 1991.

(Reuter)

Japan Oil Company Profits Get a Laundering

TOKYO — last year, Kenichi Sudo, 28, was one of Cosmo oil's rising young stars — on the fast track within the dynamic Japanese oil firm's retail gasoline management program.

Now that he oversees a dry-cleaning operation in the urban sprawl of Yohohama, you might think he had been demoted.

But take a quick look at his balance sheet and you will see why Cosmo executives are betting that Sudo, and the drive-through laundry concept he's developing, night be just the blueprint to salvage Cosmo from a world turned ıpside-down for Japan oil companies— a world where gasoline is ad business.



Seamless Service

Like its competitors, Cosmo as been worn ragged by a two-ear gasoline price battle which as put more than 500 stations out f business over the past year.

Looking to collar profits in any ay possible, the company ripped ıt the pumps at one of its stations Yokohama last November and stalled two floors of state-of-the-t dry-cleaning equipment.

In addition to an internal team pressers and steamers, the so-lled "white station" also emoys a "field staff" — which eans that customers never leave e comfort of their car.

It has been an overnight success. Cosmo revennes at the site ve more than doubled from the itch.

On that cue, the company has ınned a second "strictly clean-g" site this summer and, by the d of this year, sites where drivs can simultaneously receive ir laundry and have their tanks ed with petrol.

"We feel this kind of innovae approach will be what it takes Japanese retailers to survive," d a Cosmo spokesman.



Too Many Filling Stations

Japan, with more than 70 mila automobiles for its 150 mil-ı-strong population, loves to ve.

But its 59,000-odd service stais are roughly twice the number eeds, analysts say.

The glut began shortly after the first Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil shock, when the government of Japan imposed a rigid, two-tier oil tax regime to increase the price of gasoline, a luxury product, and subsidise the price of home-heating fuels.

Aimed at discouraging driving, the plan backfired, as it coincided with an uptick in Japanese disposable incomes and an attendant big increase in the number of Japanese drivers.

Japan oil companies, scrambling for their share of the driving boom, built pumping stations with abandon.

Even though, by the 1990s, monthly sales per station had trickled down to levels a third of those in the U.S. and Europe, Japan's artificially high pump prices kept most stations afloat.

But forewarnings of a 1996 deregulation measure liberalizing gasoline imports sparked a price war that marked the end of an era for Japan's insulated oil market.

Food and Oil Don't Mix

In the United States and Europe, Petrol stations have battled poor profit margins by seeking alliances with food chains or convenience stores.

But the idea of using food to entice more pumpers, highly successful elsewhere, has flopped in Japan.

For one thing, Japan, which holds convenience in high regard, is already overloaded with fast-food and mini-marts.

What's more, Cosmo's spokesman pointed out, the idea of gasoline kills appetites.

"Japanese people don't like to associate gasoline — the fumes, the exhaust— with their food," he said.

"They don't like to see the pumps while they chew."

"But the fast-paced nature of our workforce makes Japan a perfect place for drive-through laundry," he added.

Cosmo was also experimenting with a scheme in which it has installed a totally fabricated "private" street between the pumps at one of its service stations and a noodle shop it owns on the same lot.

The psychological ploy, which leads customers to believe that the noodle shop and service station are separate entities, has seen the lot's gasoline sales jump by some 25%.

"People love the noodle shop, as long as they're unaware it's a part of the station," the spokesman said.

Other Cosmo plans include adjacent auto parts stores, 24-hour "car care convenience" stations to provide emergency and breakdown services, and additional "semi" self-service stations, which exclude the full car-wash and car interior services that many full-service stations provide.

Self-service stations in Japan have yet to appear due to government safety regulations which require prohibitively expensive sprinkler and monitoring systems.

(Reuter)



Egypt Seen Pressing Ahead With Economic Reforms

CAIRO — Egypt's cabinet reshuffle and appointment of a new economy minister on Tuesday is seen as likely to help accelerate economic reform.

Egypt named Youssef Boutros-Ghali as economy minister as one of six cabinet changes as well as four new ministers in the first reshuffle since the country's reform-minded cabinet was set up in January 1996.

"My feeling is they (the cabinet changes) can only accelerate reforms," said World Bank representative Khalid Ikram.

Added Arvind Subramanian, International Monetary Fund (IMF) representative: "I think our view is that for fundamental reasons the Egyptian government is committed to the reform process and that this is not at all going to change with the cabinet reshuffle. That conviction is not likely to change."

Since 1996 the government has embarked on an ambitious privatization program with reforms seen as crucial to attract direct foreign investment and to put Egypt on the map as a "tiger" economy similar to emerging Asian markets.

"Over the past 10 years he (Boutros-Ghali) has been involved in the reform process in one way or another," said an international economist based in Cairo. "He is quite involved in the reform process as well as in discussions with the IMF."

Zafer el-Bishri, previously minister of state for planning, became minister of state for planning and international cooperation. Prime Minister Ganzouri, who already held the Planning Ministry, is now also minister of planning and international cooperation.

Both men will be working with the IMF and donor countries.

The other key economy portfolios were largely intact.

Mohammad Abdullah, inter-capital brokerage managing director, said the fact that the posts of planning and public enterprise — responsible for privatization — were unchanged meant investors could expect a certain amount of predictability.

He said investor confidence was also affected by changes in foreign and interior ministries. Ganzouri did not make any changes in either ministry.

"The good thing about it is if this is the only change that's going to happen," he said of the economy posts. "Then we can settle down, there will be no major changes affecting strategic events in the future. We can be confident that this is what we will have for the period to come."

The government has had trouble attracting major investors for some of its privatizations and analysts say some investors may be waiting on the sidelines to see whether the state puts strategic sectors up for sale.

Abdullah said he saw the major challenges ahead for the new cabinet to implement the Toshka project, President Hosni Mubarak's pet scheme which will require vast amounts of investment and compete with foreign investment in other sectors of the economy.

"Basically the privatization program needs to pick up speed

(Contd on Pg.14)



Two Pandas killed by Unknown Viruses in Southwestern China

HONG KONG — Two pandas have died after being stricken by an unknown virus at a zoo in southwestern China's Sichuan Province, it was reported Tuesday.

The Giant Pandas, namely "Xixi" and "No.8 Cat," died at Chongqing Zoo last month, the Hong Kong branch of the China News Service said.

The report said it was not yet known what the deadly virus was.

The female panda "Xixi" was artificially bred in Chongqing in 1985, while 25-year-old "No.8 Cat" was the only male panda at the zoo, and the oldest, the report said.

The giant panda, which is native to China, is a national symbol and has been under state protection since 1962.

Only about 1,000 of the endangererd species remain in the wild, mainly in the western provinces of Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi.

(AFP)

San Fermin Festival Begins 8 Days of Bull Running

PAMPLONA, Spain — A rocket signaled the start of Pamplona's San Fermin Festival Sunday.

The partying usually continues straight through to Monday morning and the first of the bull runs, in which hundreds of festival-goers dodge six black bulls as they run down narrow cobblestone streets to the bullring. Matadors fight the bulls later in the day.

The bull running originated in 1591, when some daredevils began running alongside the bulls as they were being driven through town to the bullfight.

Mayor Javier Chorraut lit the small rocket from the balcony of town hall and announced the nine-day festival's opening in Spanish and Basque: "Pamploneses, Viva San Fermin Gora San Fermin."

The crowd, mainly young people dressed in San Fermin's traditional garb of white shirt with red kerchief and white trousers belted by a red sash, erupted in applause.

Tens of thousands of tourists from several continents converge on the weeklong celebration of Pamplona's patron saint, made familiar to many English-speakers by Ernest Hemingway's novel "The Sun Also Rises."

At least 13 people have been killed in the bull runs, the last a 22-year-old American who was gored to death in 1995. No records were kept before 1924.

Police unsuccessfully tried to keep Basque politics out of the festival's opening, as young men climbed the town hall roof minutes before the rocket launch to hang a banner in support of Basque independence. The young men were detained and the banner removed.

Another banner several meters long, strung high above the heads of revelers by political activists in the medieval Basque town, read: "Basque Homeland: Freedom."

(AP)

Report: Shanghai Residents Living Longer

SHANGHAI — Shanghai residents can on average expect to live to the age of 76.11 years, almost twice as long as their life expectancy in the early 1950s, the *China Daily* reported Monday.

The report said the life expectancy in Shanghai compared to an average of 75 years in developed countries in 1995 and 64 years in developing countries, according to World Health Organization figures.

In the early 1950s, soon after the communist turnover, the life expectancy in Shanghai was only 42 years.

The report, noting the Shanghai government's efforts to improve health conditions in recent decades, cited municipal health bureau figures showing infant mortality falling to 9.5 per 1,000 births in 1996 from 120 in 1950.

Shanghai has basically eradicated smallpox, snail fever, filiarisis and leprosy. There have been no reported cases of diptheria in the past 17 years nor osteomyelitis in the past seven years.

(AFP)

Japanese Woman to Sue Personal Trainer Up to $130,000

HONG KONG — A Japanese woman is suing her Hong Kong personal trainer and gymnasium for up to $130,000 saying a weightlifting injury hindered her from bowing as dictated by national custom.

A high court lawsuit, filed by Misa Terasaka, 32, against trainer Li Ching and the Discovery Bay Residents' Club, alleged negligence in designing her fitness program and then in telling her to persist in lifting weights despite back pains.

Terasaka said she had to have surgery in Japan after suffering a slipped disc in her spine.

The writ said she had problems putting on socks, washing her face and was now unable to go shopping "for four to five hours" without back pain.

She said she began at the gym in October 1994, suffered back pain the following February but alleged she was told to carry on with the program although by May she was in agony and doctors diagnosed a damaged disc.

She cited emotional and psychological distress, including inability to look after her child, having to arrange for a child-minder and being separated from her husband while in hospital.

"She has difficulty in bowing which is a social custom of Japanese culture," her lawyers said in the writ.

(Reuter)

Italian Politician Hands Out "Stolen" Cash

TREVISO, Italy — Maverick Italian politician Marco Pannella handed out wads of cash to passersby in the town of Treviso on Monday in protest at the use of taxpayers' money to finance political parties.

Some 2,000 people waited all morning in the sweltering heat as Pannella and officials from his Radical Party pulled up with a yellow truck containing 2.7 billion lire ($1.6 million) and began offering 50,000 lire notes to everyone in the crowd.

"Take advantage of this, and talk about it among yourselves," Pannella shouted as he handed out the money in the northeastern town.

By midday, the party said it had given out 100 million lire in notes stamped with the words: "This is part of the loot stolen from each citizen. The Radical Party has decided not to use this stolen money and to give it back. Put it to good use."

Officials said they would carry on handing out cash all day. Tourists were among the recipients.

"This money will help me buy food, since my pension is not enough," said Eugenio Brianese, 75, who queued for three hours.

Under a law reintroduced this year after a two-year hiatus, the government has given a total of 160 billion lire of tax revenues to political parties for 1997, distributed according to their size. Pannella's party received 2.7 billion lire.

The Radical Party, which supports the independent financing of parties, wants another referendum to scrap the law again.

At Monday's rally, the party gave recipients of the 50,000 lire the option of giving 10,000 lire back, but only one in 20 did so. By midday, the party had cashed in 1.2 million lire.

"This is a fantastic civic idea, because Pannella is uniting all Italians in this protest," said Costanza Sommariva, a Treviso resident and photographer who, along with her husband, was one of the few who offered their money back.

The Radical Party, which has long championed civil rights and the referendum process, won its greatest victory in 1974 with a vote that legalized divorce in Roman Catholic Italy. Pannella has often resorted to publicity-seeking stunts.

In campaigning for a series of failed referendums promoted by the party last month, he paraded through the streets dressed as a ghost in protest at "phantom democracy".

Maurizio Gasparri, a senior member of the far-right National Alliance Party, blasted Pannella's protest stunt.

(Reuter)

Australian Botanists Find 43,000-Year-old Plant

HOBART, Australia — Australian botanists said on Tuesday they had discovered a naturally-cloned shrub thought to be 43,000-years-old, which would make it the world's oldest known living plant.

Carbon-dating indicated the *lomatia Tasmanica* shrub, commonly called king's holly, found in the rugged wilderness of Australia's island state of Tasmania, was 43,000-years-old, Tasmanian parks and wildlife service chief botanist Stephen Harris said.

Botanists had previously thought the world's oldest living plant was a 13,000-year-old *huckleberry* in the United States.

The plant, found in a one square km (0.4 square mile) patch of rainforest in Tasmania's wild and thinly populated southwest, was originally found in the 1930s but its age had never been suspected, Harris told reporters.

The shrub was a self-propagating clone which did not produce seeds but reproduced by shedding "cuttings" of itself onto the forest floor which grew into genetically-identical plants, he said.

The plant looked like several hundred individual shrubs but they were all genetically identical, meaning they were essentially the same plant, he said.

"When people think of a 43,000-year-old plant they probably visualize something gnarled and twisted, this just looks like an undershrub in the forest," he said.

Cuttings from the plant were identical to fossilized remains in the forest floor carbon-dated at 43,000 years, he said.

The plant had glossy, pointed leaves resembling holly and flowered regularly, which was unusual for a plant that did not seed, Harris said.

(Reuter)

Sicily Angry Over German "Mafia Tour" Request

PALERMO, Sicily — The president of Sicily's Anti-Mafia Committee, Fabio Granata, lashed out on Tuesday at a German travel agency which wanted to set up a special tour of this italian island taking in grisly Mafia murder sites.

The unnamed tour operator asked a Sicilian holiday firm to organise outings which were to include fake Mafia killings and trips to places where top mobsters had been slain or arrested.

"Here's some advice to the inventors of this initiative: go and relive the 'thrills' of Dachau and Auschwitz or the bombing of Dresden," Granata said in a statement.

Dachau and Auschwitz were two notorious concentration camps set up by the Germans during World War Two. The German city of Dresden was destroyed by Allied bombers in 1945.

Earlier on Tuesday, Francesco Forgione, a regional government politician for the leftist Communist Refoundation Party, showed reporters at a news conference the tour requests from the German company.

"We should organize in the early afternoon in the region of Agrigento a pretend Mafia attack," the faxed letter said.

Forgione said the German firm should be made to pay compensation for damages to Sicily's image.

"It is absurd that the Mafia — pain, blood and violence — and which is such an unwanted part of our life, can so nonchalantly become a (tourist) attraction," Forgione said.

In reply to the German requests, a Sicilian agent detailed a "Mafia tour" on which one of the stops would have been the villa near the town of Agrigento where Giovanni Brusca was arrested in 1996.

Brusca was charged with setting off a bomb that killed anti-Mafia judge Giovanni Falcone in 1992, a crime which prompted a huge wave of protest against the mob.

"The commercialisation of one of the dramas of this land gives no honour, even in this difficult economic situation, to those operators on the island who responded to the German invitation," the anti-Mafia committee chief, Granata, said.

(AFP)

British Parliament Wants to Debate Monarchy Succession

LONDON — Britain's House of Lords asked Buckingham Palace Monday for permission to debate a proposal that would allow the daughter of a monarch to accede to the throne even if she had brothers.

Under the present law, the title passes to the son even if the first-born child is female.

The House of Lords is the unelected Upper House of the British Parliament.

Parliament has to ask the Queen's permission to debate any issue touching on the royalty. Queen Elizabeth gave her assent in February, but elections in May meant that a new request had to be made.

The proposal is being put forward by Lord Archer, otherwise known as the author Jeffrey Archer. If passed, it will take effect only with the children of Prince William, Charles' elder son and second in line to the throne.

A proposal to similarly change the rules of succession to peerages failed in December 1994.

(AFP)

Philippine Capital Bans Use of Cellphones, Radios While Driving

MANILA — Motorists in the Philippine capital were banned starting Monday from using hand-held cellular telephones and radios, in a bid to prevent road accidents, officials said.

Robert Nacianceno, general manager of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, said drivers who use such "hands-free devices" as headsets and speakers were, however, exempt from the ban.

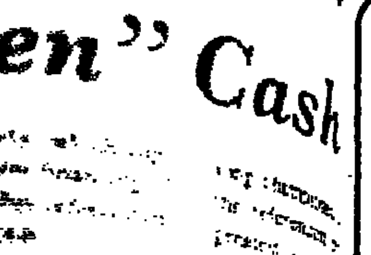
Nacianceno said the prohibition was a precautionary measure, noting an increasing number of road accidents caused by the use of cellphones or radios. He did not cite exact figures.

According to the city ordinance, the use of cellular telephones or radios can divert a driver's attention away from the road, "which is a very dangerous situation".

(DPA)



هكذا من الأصل



Australian Botanists
43,000-Year-old Pl

er German
Request



Genetically Altered Cold Virus Used to Fight Prostate Cancer

WASHINGTON — A genetically altered cold virus has been used to destroy prostate cancer cells in mice and will be tested soon on humans, according to a study released Tuesday.

The research reported in the *Journal Cancer Research* indicated that the common virus can be made into a cancer-killer capable of obliterating prostate tumors in mice with a single injection.

Daniel Henderson, president of the Biotech Firm Calydon that conducted the research, said it remains to be seen whether the technique can be applied to humans.

"Curing a mouse does not help anybody, but if you don't cure a mouse you're not going anywhere," he said. "We're in this never-neverland where we all have our fingers crossed because it could be a stunning advance — or it could fall on the garbage pile of unrealized promise."

Human tests of the genetically engineered virus will begin later this year at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

However, Otis Brawley of the National Cancer Institute said that even under the best circumstances a treatment based on this approach would not be available until 2002 and a vaccine is not likely before 2002.

"The approacn ... is innovative and unique, and it makes a lot of sense," Brawley said. "It is possible that if there is ever a vaccine we give men to keep them from getting prostate cancer it is going to be using this kind of technology."

Prostate cancer is the second largest cancer killer of men in the United States, claiming 42,100 lives annually, and accounts for 43 percent of all new cancer diagnoses in men.

The virus-as-cancer-killer strategy used by Calydon is similar to one that drew widespread attention to another biotech company last fall, Onyx pharmaceuticals of Richmond, California, which applied it to other cancer cells.

The genetic alterations ensure that the virus is switched on only in prostate cancer cells.

Once the virus is switched on, it works like a typical cold virus, frenetically replicating until the cell explodes.

Six weeks after a single injection, human prostate cancer tumors in five of 10 mice had visually disappeared, and later experiments showed that remaining portions of tumors were only scar tissue. *(AFP)*

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Milk and Exercise When Young Help Prevent Osteoporosis Later

MARBURG — In Germany alone, there are around three million elderly people suffering from osteoporosis. Medical scientist Dietmar Krause told DPA, the German press agency, that two thirds of them are women.

He advised young girls and women in particular to drink plenty of milk and ensure they have sufficient physical exercise, so as to avoid contracting the disease in later life.

According to Krause, the incidence of osteoporosis is rising dramatically, partly because people are living longer, but also on account of wrong eating habits and lifestyle.

Apart from the individual suffering it caused, osteoporosis was increasingly becoming a social and economic problem, he said. Between ten and 20 percent of the people suffering from it fractured their thighs and were totally dependent on nursing and care, while around the same number again needed external help to manage their everyday lives.

Osteoporosis is a gradually developing condition. Most women show the first signs of it after the age of 50 when the body has ceased producing the sex hormone estrogen.

Krause warned that as a result of their anxiety to follow the dictates of fashion young women all over Europe were suffering from calcium deficiency.

They followed exaggerated diets so as stay slim, thus reducing their bodies' estrogen content and lowering their calcium intake. However, calcium was essential for the development of optimum bone density.

Krause said that an average person's bone substance was 97 percent developed before the age of twenty. The thinner the substance, the sooner it became worn out.

He said that coca-cola, fast food, deep frozen convenience food and meat were calcium killers. To make matters worse, young people on this sort of diet were taking less and less exercise. *(DPA)*

THOUGHT

People hate those that make them feel their own inferiority: therefore conceal all your learning carefully.

Lord Chesterfield

PRAYER

Noon 13:09
Evening 20:46
Dawn (tomorrow) 04:10
Sunrise (tomorrow) 05:55

Skinny Babies Turn Into Fat-Bellied Adults

LONDON — Underweight babies often develop fat bellies and suffer from heart trouble in later life.

David Barker of the University of Southampton in southern England says an organism which is undernourished in the womb tends after birth to store fat particularly around the diaphragm region.

According to a report in the London *"New Scientist"*, Barker provided evidence to back up his theory at the European Congress on obesity held recently in Dublin.

He based his report on a study of several hundred young people which revealed that the lighter they had been at birth the more fat they had accumulated in the abdominal region later on.

Fat deposited here rather than elsewhere in the body produces a large quantity of low-density lipoproteins (LDL), which are a contributory factor in blocking blood vessels.

Fat deposits on the hips, thighs and other less central areas of the body produce much less LDL. Barker said: "it all depends on how the fat is distributed. And the scene for unfavorable distribution is set very early on in life." *(DPA)*

University Sues Test-Tube Doctor for Taking Private Cases

LONDON — A doctor involved in the first test tube birth is being sued by the university that employed him for taking lucrative private jobs at the expense of research, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Simon Fishel was given notice in April to Nottingham University in central England that he was joining a private hospital, the mail on Sunday newspaper reported.

The university, which runs a publicly-funded fertility clinic, initially accepted the move.

But last week it issued a writ for unspecified damages, alleging that he was remunerated for private work in Europe, the Middle East, South Africa and the United States, and that he neglected his research.

Fishel denied that there was any deception, saying the university knew of his outside work, and that it benefited the institution, the newspaper reported.

The mail on Sunday said Fishel, 43, was a member of the Cambridge University team behind the birth of the world's first test-tube baby, Louise Brown, in 1978.

Last year, he was behind another breakthrough fertilized an egg with immature sperm from a man previously declared infertile. *(AP)*

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Tiles	Scoring	
R_1 Y_4 I_1 M_3 P_3 U_1 F_4	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
E_1 A_1 A_1 M_3 I_1 S_1 L_1	3rd Letter Triple	RACK 2
E_1 T_1 E_1 I_1 V_4 S_1 R_1		RACK 3
B_3 H_4 T_1 T_1 R_1 E_1 O_1		RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ______
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

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SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

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Tiles	Rack	Score
S_1 E_1 N_1 A_1 T_1 O_1 R_1	RACK 1	57
F_4 O_1 R_1 B_3 I_1 D_2	RACK 2	15
R_1 E_1 P_3 A_1 I_1 R_1	RACK 3	16
P_3 O_1 O_1 D_2 L_1 E_1	RACK 4	9
	JUDD'S TOTAL	97

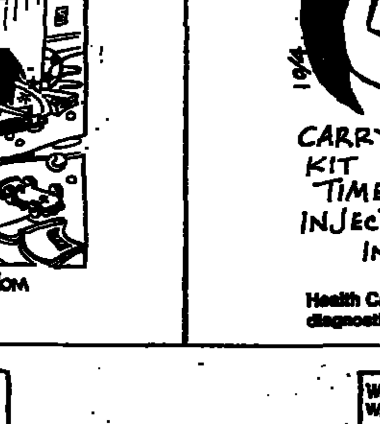
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DENNIS THE MENACE

by Hank Ketcham



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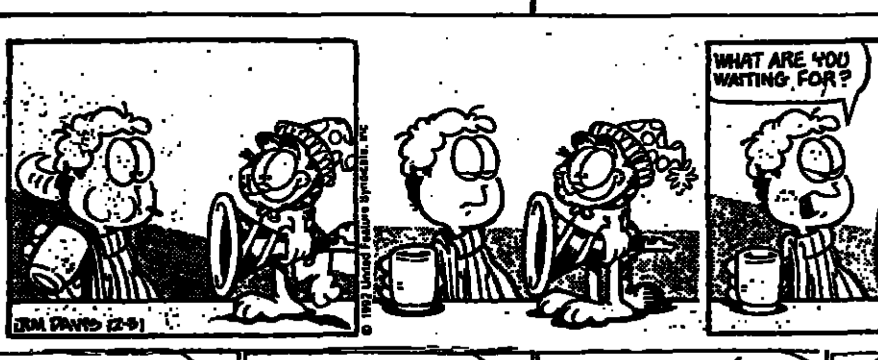
by Michael A. Petti, M.D.

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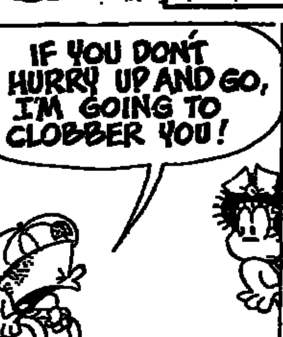
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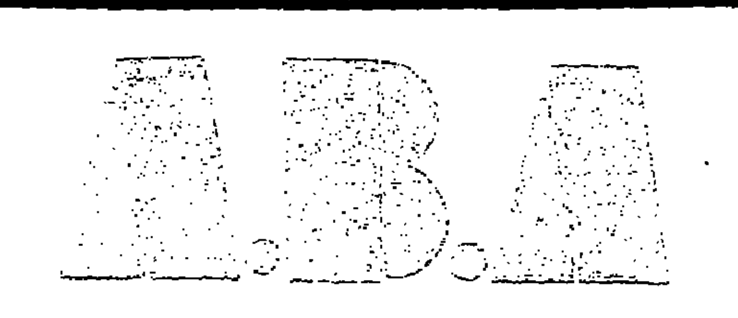










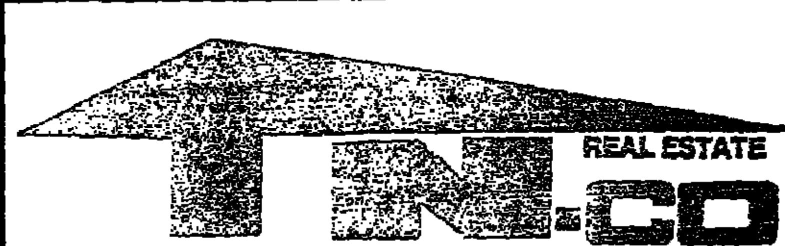


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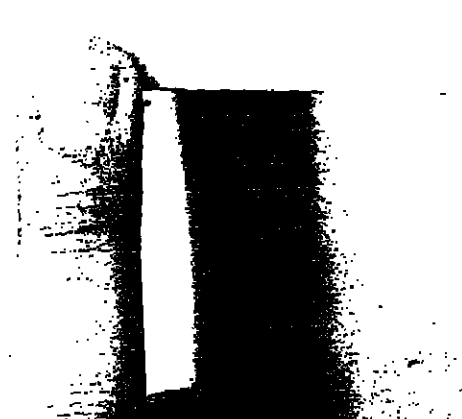
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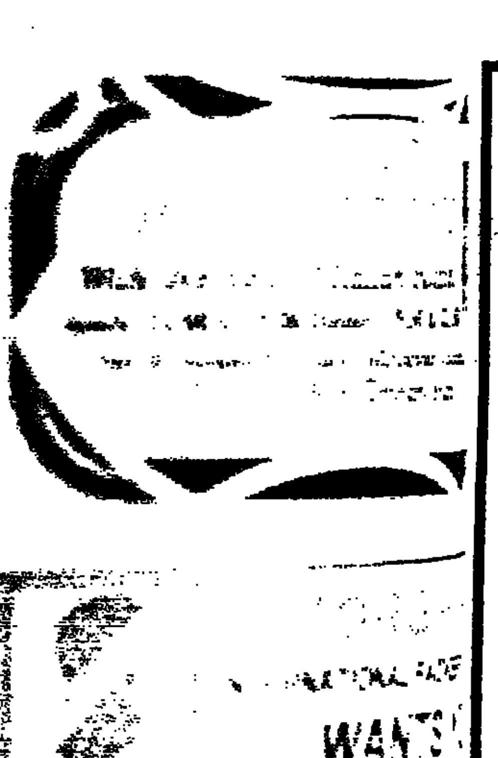
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N.Ireland Violence Puts Off Peace for Months

BELFAST — Britain's handling of a Protestant parade has alienated the Catholic minority in Northern Ireland and set back fragile hopes of a new IRA guerrilla cease-fire for months, analysts said on Monday.

It has blown holes in the credibility of the new Labour government among Catholics, undermined the position of the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, among its own rank and file, and rendered current Anglo-Irish peace irrelevant, they said.

"I don't see a new IRA cease-fire until September at the earliest, and that's probably being ultra-optimistic," said Paul Arthur, professor of politics at the University of Ulster.

The explosion of anger, still smouldering at street corners across the province in the wrecks of cars hijacked and torched by rioters overnight, seems to have blackened the once-bright credentials of Britain's new government among Catholics.

The name of Mo Mowlam, Labour's Northern Ireland Secretary, joined that of her Conservative predecessor, Patrick Mayhew, in obscene murals painted on gable ends of Catholic ghettos during the night in a display of Catholic fury.

Analysts said the challenge posed by Sunday's orange order march from a church at Drumcree down the Catholic Garvaghy Road was a big test of Blair's promise to respect the rights of the Protestant majority and Catholic minority equally.

And it failed, they said.

"Drumcree was Northern Ireland in a microcosm. By allowing it down Garvaghy Road, it confirmed that Labour is like every other government and will take the Protestant side," said Henry Patterson, reader in politics at Queens University.



Analysts said the weekend violence, some of the worst for decades, had created a chasm of mistrust between Irish Nationalists and Blair's government as well as between Blair and the new Irish government of Prime Minister Bertie Ahern.

Ahern, whose Fianna Fail Party sees itself as the mainstream voice of Irish nationalism, pledged to "stand up for nationalists" in his election campaign and barely hid his anger at the Portadown Parade in a weekend diplomatic statement.

It expressed "disappointment" at the decision to sanction the march route the orange order chose. Early talks between Blair and Ahern to put on a united front against violence and for their Anglo-Irish peace talks was likely, they said.

But in the immediate future, prospects on the streets of Northern Ireland were for Catholic riots and attacks by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in the countdown to the July 12 climax of the Protestant "marching season" and beyond.

"It's difficult to see how any progress can be made while we count down to the 12th of July and beyond. It will take an awful lot of private, confidential, confidence-building talks with Irish Republicans," Patterson told Reuters.

The rioting also posed serious problems for the leadership of Sinn Fein in trying to persuade the Irish Republican Army and hardline Nationalists that it was worth joi ng Anglo-Irish peace talks both overnments tout as the only route to peace.

The IRA, which has fought since 1969 to end British rule of Northern Ireland and merge it with neighboring Ireland, and various splinter groups were on the streets of Belfast overnight in a show of armed force not seen since the 1970s.

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams and his de facto deputy, Martin McGuinness, have been struggling to persuade hardline IRA elements that the Anglo-Irish peace talks with their pro-British Unionist foes are worth joining at all.

The price of admission Blair has asked is a credible cease-fire and a commitment to democracy, analysts said.

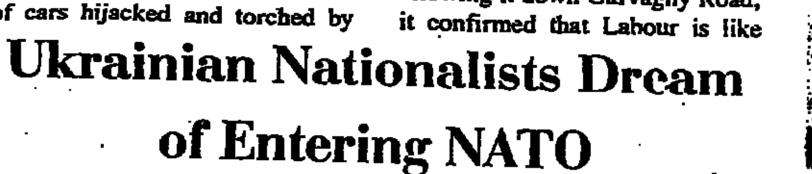
"The mistrust of the British government is deeper at the rank and file level and their leaders won't move until they can bring the rank and file on board," Arthur told Reuters.

"This weekend's problems underline the problems McGuinness and Adams have in persuading their own people that the British government is serious about change in Northern Ireland when they can't even get a march (drumcree) rerouted," Patterson said.

On the negotiating table is a set of Anglo-Irish proposals called framework documents to blur the border the IRA wants to tear down by creating cross-frontier parliamentary and trade bodies to create new trust between the two Irelands.

"The framework documents aren't enough for the IRA but Adams and McGuinness know that that's all there is on offer. They will have awful problems trying to sell that now," Patterson said.

(Reuter)



Ukrainian Nationalists Dream of Entering NATO

LVOV, Ukraine — The people of Lvov, the main town in western Ukraine, dream of the day their ex-Soviet republic can join NATO, which they see as the only way to fend off their giant neighbor Russia.

"NATO is our best guarantee of security and independence," said Volodimir Datsko, a resident of the region just over 540 kilometers (335 miles) west of the capital Kiev and site of the U.S.-led military alliance's second round of exercises.

Ukraine will not be entering NATO at the alliance's historic Madrid Summit, where the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland are seen as the frontrunners.

But the second largest ex-Soviet republic after Russia is to sign a cooperation accord which foresees a "permanent consultation mechanism," a preliminary accord was reached in May.

At the start of the military exercises, involving 1,200 soldiers from 11 countries, Ukrainian Defense Minister Olexandr Kuzmuk repeated Kiev's official stance that entering NATO is its "strategic goal."

The desire to join NATO goes hand in hand with suspicion of

(Contd. on Pg. 14)

The Center for Visual Arts Holds:

The Third Tehran International Biennial Caricature Exhibition

Sept. 27 - Oct. 31, 1997

Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts

In the Name of God



Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts

The Center for Visual Arts, affiliated to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance holds the Third Tehran International Biennial Caricature Exhibition in Sept.-Oct., 1997 at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts.

Regulations

- Subjects: 1- Protecting cultural heritage 2- Optional
- Number of works: At most three works from each artist in each section will be accepted.
- Deadline for receiving the works will be August 6, 1997

Important Notice:

All the interested in participation in the exhibition can obtain the participation form from the permanent secretariat of the exhibitions at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts and after filling it out deliver the form along with their works to the secretariat before the deadline.

It should be noted that works without participation form will not be participated in the exhibition. Township artists can obtain the form from their city's General Department for Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts

Permanent Secretariat of the Exhibitions, Beside Laleh Park, N. Karegar Ave., Tehran.
Tel: 654176, 653200, 655411 ext. 32.

Environmentalists Want Tougher Climate Action

LONDON - If Europe is feeling smug about its environmental policies it had better watch out — green activists are on the march and they want action.

Germany, France and Britain, alone among big industrialised nations, look set to meet the greenhouse emission targets for the year 2000 set by the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

At Earth Summit II in New York last month the leaders of Europe's big three economies proudly pointed to this achievement. Other nations, by implication, were scorned for their sloth.

But this success is not the result of an array of trend-setting environmental policies. There has been no facing up to the political consequences of tough action to save the world, or green policies to cut car use and fossil fuel burning.

Germany shut obsolete factories in the east. France generates most of its power with nuclear reactors. Britain closed down most of its coal mines.

And environmentalists say that targets set by the Rio Summit, that the industial world cut CO2 emissions by 2000 back to 1990 levels, are hopelessly inadequate.

The European Union's plan to reduce emissions by 2010 to 15 per cent of 1990 levels is also dismissed as too little too late. Cutbacks of 50 per cent to 70 per cent will just about hold back the warming world climate, and save its people from an environmental disaster, green representatives say.

Only action which stops the West's profligate lifestyle in its tracks will do the trick. Uncomfortable decisions, like ending oil exploration, will have to be taken.

"It is certainly true that some industrialised countries look like reaching the (Rio 2000) target. Some of that is good luck. Russia — they're looking good because the economy has collapsed; the U.K. switched to natural gas from coal," said Nick Dunlop, director of earthaction.

"You can't criticise them just because it's not done with climate change in mind," Dunlop said.

Germany at least gained one perverse benefit from its east German inheritance. Scores of outdated, inefficient smoke-stack industries from the east had to be put out of their misery. German emissions of carbon dioxide took a dive.

Britain's former conservative government presided over the demise of its huge coal industry as it fought the miners' union to the death. Industry switched to natural gas and CO2 emissions were slashed.

France, in the face of fierce antagnonism from the green movement, accelerated its use of atomic power. Now about 75% of the nation's electricity is generated by nuclear energy, from which CO2 emissions are zero.

Environmentalists, spurred by some scientists, and a report from the United Nations' intergovernmental panel on climate change, are determined to see governments slash emissions of so-called greenhouse gases, which are said to trap the sun's heat, raising the earth's temperature.

This temperature rise would induce dangerous extremes of weather, destroying crops and livestock, disrupting ocean currents and threatening the existence of ... ing standards. ice-caps would melt and flood low-lying coasts and island states.

Scientists agree that the world has warmed by about half a degree celsius since the late 19th century. But most are reluctant to say there is a firm link between this and man's influence, with some seeing it as part of a natural cycle of warming and cooling over the centuries.

"It's clear global response is patently inadequate. We need to cut 50 to 70 per cent to stabilise the concentration of gas in the atmosphere," said Earthaction's Dunlop.

"Every year we continue without making reductions the concentration is higher and will remain higher for lifetimes to come. Climate change is already happening, and we can't wait for cautious scientists," Dunlop said.

"To a large extent most industrialised countries have not made the effort needed to combat climate change.

Kirsty Hamilton, spokeswoman for greenpeace international's climate campaign, agrees action has been inadequate, and puts the case for action that will shake oil companies to the core.

"Britain, Germany and France have only scraped the surface of climate policies. If you want to protect the climate you won't be able to burn the reserves we know about now, let alone developing them in totally new areas. We must constrain the expansion of fossil fuels," Hamilton said.

But the World Energy Council (WEC) says action to clean the environment must above all be politically acceptable.

"We need to take cost effective action now. That means realistic policies which are socially and politically acceptable as well as economically viable," said Michael Jefferson, deputy general secretary of the WEC.

The WEC, which says it is independent of governments and companies, seeks balance in energy issues.

Jefferson said targeting car use without providing adequate alternatives was doomed. Ways to increase energy efficiency should lead the effort.

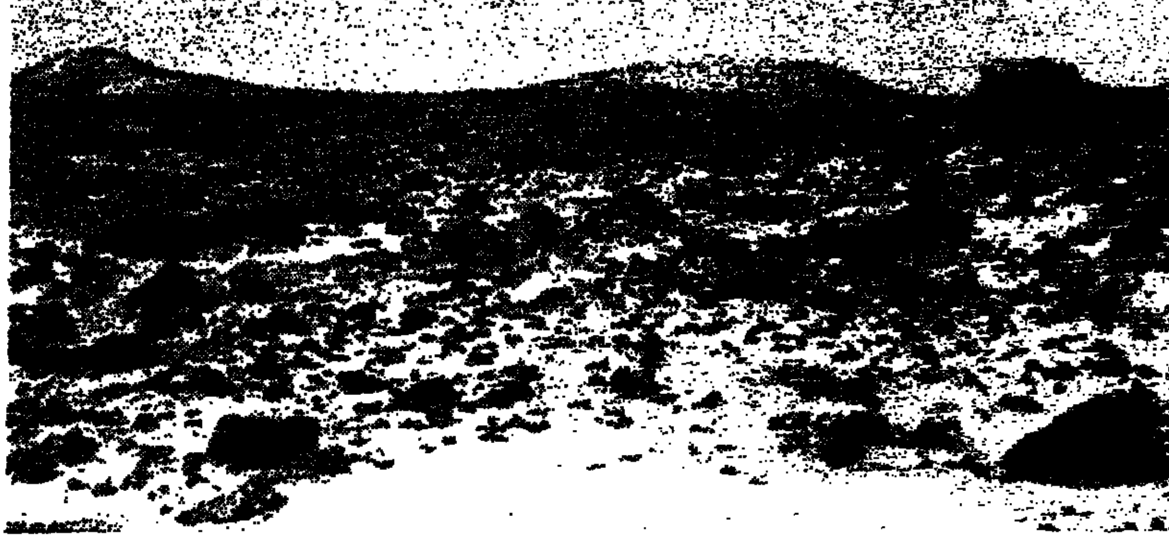
"We believe over 60 per cent of primary energy is lost in various ways between transmission and use," Jefferson said.

The WEC wants a balanced shift away from fossil fuels, while recognising that these still provide about three quarters of the world's primary energy. Nuclear and renewable fuels should have a bigger role to play.

"It makes more sense to decide strategies that go out to 2100, rather than create unrealistic targets for 2005 or 2010," Jefferson said.

"The only longterm solution is limits recognising that humanity shares the planet and everybody has equal rights to ecological space. We need global targets and to determine how much each person is to emit if we are to make that target," Dunlop said.

"We can't half save the planet. We either do it or we fail and face disaster. Scientists say a 60 per cent cut worldwide is required. If we did it tomorrow it would still take 50 years to break down those (CO2) concentrations," Dunlop said. *(Reuter)*



PASADENA, UNITED STATES (July 5): A photograph taken by the Mars Pathfinder Lander shows two large hills in the distance and a portion of the Lander's airbags. later the rover "Sojourner" is scheduled to deploy onto the surface.

(AFP PHOTO)

Mars Euphoria Subsides as Science Takes Spotlight

PASADENA — Mars Euphoria took a back seat here Tuesday as scientists resumed analysis on data supplied by the Pathfinder probe and its roving robot sojourner.

For four days NASA's jet propulsion laboratory, which specializes in planetary exploration, has witnessed wild scenes of joy here at the initial success of the Mars Pathfinder mission.

Mission officials showed their delight Monday as each stage of the mission unfolded as planned: the sojourner robot responded to their commands; all cameras were in working order; scientific instruments functioned; and data flowed back to earth.

Pathfinder began gathering information from its entry into the Martian atmosphere Friday and has been communicating with earth twice daily ever since.

Now the spotlight switches to the laboratories where scientists are busy digesting the significance of the data flooding in.

On Tuesday they were intrigued by the revelation that the eight-inch-high rock they have nicknamed "Barnacle Bill" contains a large amount of quartz, which is largely absent from the Martian meteorites found on earth.

"We were not expecting a rock of this composition," professor Rudolph Rieder of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry said here, adding the rock was "more granitic than we expected."

Rieder and his colleague Johannes Brueckner designed the X-ray spectrometer with which sojourner analyzes rock composition.

"Barnacle Bill" is composed of equal parts of quartz, orthopyroxene and feldpath.

The presence of quartz suggests that the rock melted several times, leading scientists to think volcanic activity on Mars lasted a long time, with volcanoes dying and returning to life several times.

Experts were waiting to study the rock's texture to determine whether "Barnacle Bill" had an entirely volcanic origin, was a sedimentary rock or was the result of a meteorite impact on Mars.

The first wave of information supplied by Pathfinder concerned the atmosphere on Mars and with it came the first surprise.

Scientists already knew from the Viking missions to the red planet 21 years ago that its atmosphere was made up of 95.3 percent carbon dioxide, 2.7 percent nitrogen, 1.6 percent argon, with trace amounts of oxygen, carbon monoxide and water vapor.

But scientists concluded that the atmosphere was less dense than first thought after monitoring the descent slowed by parachute of Pathfinder onto the planet.

Once on Mars, Pathfinder immediately began collecting information on temperature, winds, humidity and other meteorological details.

Mission scientist James Bell commented that "the surface of Mars is rusting" but was unable to say at what rate and why.

The reddish-brown color that characterizes the planet is attributed to iron oxide in the soil. But geologists are excited by the variety of colors and shapes of rocks at the Pathfinder landing site in the vast Ares Vallis.

As sojourner made tracks on the Martian surface, pictures sent back to earth indicated huge amounts of water repeatedly flooded parts of the planet between one and three billion years ago.

The presence of water is a key criterion to be assessed in searching for extraterrestrial life on Mars.

"Huge amounts of water" once swept across the site where the Pathfinder probe landed Friday, and some of it "stayed behind and evaporated," said mission scientist Michael Malin.

Photographs beamed back by the probe show round rocks and boulders placed in patterns that indicate water flow as well as dried puddles.

The water which flowed between one and three billion years ago could have reached depths of hundreds of metres, with volume enough to fill the Mediterranean basin. *(AFP)*

With U.S.-Mars Pathfinder

PASADENA - NASA's Mars rover is not exactly the high-tech vehicle you might expect to see zipping around the red planet.

Sure, the sojourner rover is driven by engineers wearing 3-d virtual reality goggles, manipulating an animated computer image and steering the rover along the surface of Mars, 119 million miles (190 million kms) away. But the action is far from instant - in fact, the tiny rover doesn't even move until hours after it receives its commands.

Movements in this project come like baby steps, painstakingly slow as engineers plot safe routes for the sojourner through the frigid boulder field where its mother ship, the Pathfinder, sits on Mars.

Before the rover's 12-inch (30-centimeter) excursion Sunday, for example, drivers spent a whole night planning and rehearsing commands directing the little six-wheeled buggy to pivot 90 degrees, then back up to a rock affectionately nicknamed Barnacle Bill.

Sojourner can't be operated in real time because of the travel time for signals between earth and Mars, about 11 minutes each way. So in a sense, rover driver Brian Cooper is asleep at the wheel.

He works overnight to plot the next day's drive in a room decorated with Pathfinder time lines and a toy sojourner rover action pack at his elbow. The commands are radioed up to Mars, where the rover will carry them out during the Martian day, using solar power.

"I'll be sleeping when the rover's driving," he said.

Cooper and fellow members of his electronic pit crew don the battery-powered 3-D goggles to study the latest Pathfinder landscapes on a computer screen, looking for hidden obstacles.

On the screen, a virtual rover is superimposed upon the latest images from Pathfinder's camera.

The 3-D glasses translate pictures from Pathfinder's two-eyed camera into a landscape with depth. Drivers can view the scene from any angle.

Using the spaceball, a mouse-like device, the driver can select targets by throwing virtual green lawn darts into the Martian soil.

The darts look just like cartoon representations of those commonly found in back yards. The driver then commands the virtual rover to travel to those targets.

Hours later, the real rover follows the same path, which has been sent up by radio command to the Pathfinder computer. The rover employs a laser warning system that helps it steer around unforeseen obstacles.

Sojourner has programs in its on-board computer to help it get out of a jam. If it drove out of radio contact behind a rock, for instance, it would know to stop and extricate itself.

Sojourner has three cameras, but the drivers navigate with pictures from the main camera on Pathfinder. That camera sits atop a 5.5-foot (1.7-meter) mast, giving it better perspective on the route.

The rover can get a rough idea where it is, judging distance by counting wheel turns and positions by gyrocompass. But it depends on drivers using Pathfinder pictures to pinpoint its location.

What qualifications does it take to drive on Mars?

"I do have an official Martian rover driver's license issued by the state of Washington," Cooper joked. It's actually one created after a teacher in Everett, Washington, put him through the paces. It's signed by the governor of Washington and Vice President Al Gore.

Spoof certificate aside, how does he do behind the wheel on earth?

"A pretty good driver. You can ask my wife."

Rover manager Jacob Matijevic looks forward to getting sojourner onto longer drives, maybe to spots out of sight of the cameras on the pathfinder lander: "It would be nice to take some pictures behind some of the largest rocks to see if there were any Martians hiding out there." *(AP)*

Sumitomo to Supply Geothermal Turbines to Indonesia

TOKYO — Japan's Sumitomo Corp. said Wednesday it had won a 29-billion-yen (255 million dollar) order to supply geothermal generators to Indonesia.

The major Japanese trading house will provide and install two 110,000 kilowatts turbine geothermal generators at a plant to be built in western Java by an independent power producer, Mandala Nusantara Ltd.

Sumitomo also said in a statement that Japan's Fuji Electric Co, Ltd. would be responsible for the manufacture of the turbines.

The first generator will be delivered in October next year and be put into commercial operation in March 1999, followed by the second generator later the same year, the statement said.

Mandala Nusantari, owned 85 percent by Asiapower Ltd. and 15 percent by Indonesia's investment company PT Bumi Mandala Perkasa, plans to raise the plant's electricity output to 440,000 kilowatts in the future, Sumitomo said. *(AFP)*



هكذا من الأصل

Latest Human Development Report Measures Human Deprivation and Development for Countries Around the Globe

Poverty of choices and opportunities is far more crippling than poverty of income, say the authors of the Human Development Report 1997. The annual report, published for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), introduces a new "Human Poverty Index," or HPI, which provides a country-by-country measure of poverty from a human development perspective. Instead of using income — the traditional measure of poverty — the HPI looks at whether people in the developing world have the basic choices and opportunities to lead a long and healthy life and to enjoy a decent standard of living.

Among the 78 countries in the index, Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba, Chile, Singapore and Costa Rica do best; these countries have reduced human poverty to less than 10 percent of their population. At the bottom of the rankings are the seven countries where human poverty exceeds 50 percent — Niger, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Cambodia and Mozambique.

The HPI reflects three variables: shortness of lifespan (the percentage of the population in each country expected to survive to age 40); lack of basic education (the percentage of the population illiterate); and lack of access to public and private resources (measured as a composite percentage of persons lacking access to health services, safe water and reasonable nutrition). Without such basic opportunities, many life choices are closed.

Constraints of data meant that critical dimensions of human poverty were excluded from the HPI

Canada, France and Norway lead world in human development rankings; human development score for 30 countries drop

survey, including lack of political freedom, inability to participate in decision-making, lack of personal security, inability to participate in the life of a community and threats to sustainability. Industrialized nations were also excluded from the HPI study, not only because of data constraints but also because different and more relevant variable would need to be used to measure deprivation in these countries.

"The measure is intended to help focus attention on the many dimensions of poverty, not income alone," says Richard Jolly, special adviser to the UNDP administrator and the principal coordinator of the report. "An estimated 1.3 billion people survive on less than U.S.$1 a day. But there are other needs. Nearly a billion people are illiterate. Well over a billion lack access to water. Some 840 million go hungry or face food insecurity. And nearly a third of the people in the least developed countries — most of which are in Sub-Saharan Africa — are not expected to survive to age 40."

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 1997

FIGURE 2.11

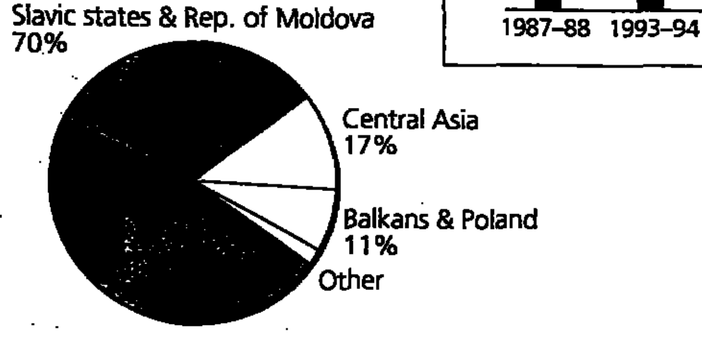
Increasing poverty in transition economies

The incidence of income poverty has increased sevenfold since 1988, pushing an additional 105 million people below the poverty line.

People living below the income poverty line ($4 a day)

1987–88	1993–94
13.6 million	119.2 million

Distribution of poor people in the transition economies



Source: Milanovic 1996.

Efforts to reduce income poverty and human poverty differ within and among countries. Egypt, for instance, has reduced income poverty to eight percent while human poverty still affects nearly 35 percent of its people. Conversely, Peru has reduced human poverty to around 12 percent but the extent of income poverty incidence is 49 percent.

The Human Development Report is perhaps best known for its "Human Development Index," or HDI, which measures the progress of nations in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment and income. Of the 175 countries included in this year's HDI, Canada, France and Norway top the rankings followed by the United States and the Netherlands. Among developing countries, Hong Kong, Cyprus and Barbados lead. The lowest ranking countries are Sierra Leone, Rwanda and Niger.

One particularly important finding of third year's report is that the HDI values of 30 countries fell from previous edition of the report. The authors point to two primary reasons for the decline: drops in life expectancy or per capita GDP. Contributing facotrs include HIV / AIDS, violent conflict and economies in transition. Still, seven countries moved from the index's medium to high human development category: Belarus, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent.

The "Human Development Index," or HDI, is based on a perspective that judges development by the advances made by all groups in a nation — from the rich to the poor. This contrasts with the "Human Poverty Index," or HPI, which judges development by the way the poor fare in each nation. Comparisons of HDI and HPI

New measure of human deprivation introduced; Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba and Chile show the most progress among developing countries

rankings for various countries reveal some sharp contrasts:

- Zimbabwe, Bolivia and Viet nam had much more "pro-poor" human development than Namibia, Guatemala and Morocco. In these latter countries, the HPI is more than twice as high, or poverty is more than twice as pervasive.
- At the other end of the scale, Thailand, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica and Chile have all achieved high levels of human development but the extent of human poverty in Thailand, Colombia, Mexico and Panama is double that in Costa Rica and Chile.

Authors of the Human Development Report 1997 also compared the HPI values of countries with a purely income-based measure of poverty (a $1-a-day poverty line). Among their findings:

- Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Boliva, Honduras and Peru achieved similar levels of reduction in human poverty — around 12 percent — but the extent of income poverty incidence ranges widely from four percent in Sri Lanka to 49 percent in Peru.
- Some of the top performers in reducing human poverty still have higher income poverty incidence; Costa Rica and Chile reduced
- human poverty to five or six percent but their income poverty incidence remains higher at 15 to 20 percent.
- Other countries that have made substantial gains in reducing income poverty to less than 20 percent, like Cote d'Ivoire, Pakistan and Egypt, have farther to go in reducing human poverty, which remains at over 35 percent.

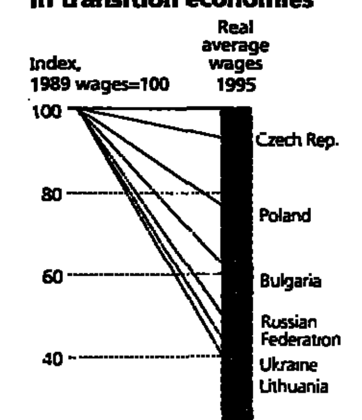
Using the new HPI to get an overall assessment of regional and global trends, the Human Development Report 1997 found that:

- Human poverty affects more than a quarter of the people in developing countries.
- Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia have the highest incidence of both income and human poverty — at about 40 percent.
- Progress in reducing human poverty and income poverty does not always go together. In Latin America, for instance, human poverty has been reduced to 15 percent but income poverty is still 24 percent.

Although all the countries in the HPI were able to reduce human poverty during the past two decades, the Human Development Report 1997 identified two trends in human poverty:

- The extent and pattern of human poverty reduction

Wages have declined drastically in transition economies



Source: Milanovic 1996.

was not the same for countries of similar economic standing. Thus, while Thailand and Mexico were able to reduce the incidence of human poverty by two-thirds, Peru, starting from a similar base, reduced it by less than one-fifth only.

- Reduction in human poverty was not linked to the level of income. Both Thailand and Mexico started with a similar level of human poverty in 1970, reduced it by two-thirds during the past two decades and now the incidence of human poverty in these two countries is around 12 percent. But the per capita income of Thailand at $2.400 is less than three-fifths that in Mexico.

Authors of the Human Development Report 1997 conclude that the complete eradication of extreme poverty in the next one or two deeades is a legitimate goal. They underscore the dramatic and unprecedented progress in reducing poverty and advancing human development throughout the developing world — income poverty has fallen faster in the past 50 years than literacy, health and other aspects of human development.

"This is a moment of extraordinary hope for people across the world," says Jolly. "The nations of the world must reach out, not retreat. Pressures threaten to propel us in the wrong direction at a real moment of hope, frittering away our achievements over the past half century. A remarkable transformation has taken place in much of the developing world, but to succeed at eradicating poverty we must continue to invest in the mutually-reinforcing agendas of human and economic development."

Commenting upon the release of the Human Development Report 1997, UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth said: "Unless we address the problems of poverty now, none of the great goals that the International Community has set — peace, stability, human rights for all, preservation of the environment — are achievable in a world where one half of the people find themselves shut out of opportunity and the benefits of a global society." *(Courtesy Human Development Report 1997)*

Rwandan Refugees Trek 3,000 Km to Gabon

GENEVA — At least 365 Rwandan refugees have arrived in bad shape in Gabon after a gruelling 3,000 km (1,870-mile) trek from the Democratic Republic of Congo, the United Nations Refugee Agency said on Tuesday.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said it had sent a team to investigate and help the refugees in Gabon, the sixth country known to host Rwandan refugees.

Rwandan Hutus who originally fled ethnic slaughter in their homeland, had been living in the east of former Zaire.

The refugee group, which includes 24 children, arrived at the village of Leconi in the southeastern province of Haut Ogoue from their most recent camp near Brazzaville, Congo, according to authorities in Gabon.

"They all came from Bilolo, a camp 30 kilometers north of Brazzaville which has been engulfed in the fighting around the capital since June 5," UNHCR spokeswoman Pam o'Toole told a news briefing in Geneva.

"These people are said to be in very poor shape — malnourished, exhausted and sick," she added. "To reach Gabon these people have trekked some 3,000 kilometers from the camps in the Democratic Republic of Congo — in appalling conditions."

Only 2,000 of the 5,000 Rwandan refugees are believed to remain in Bilolo.

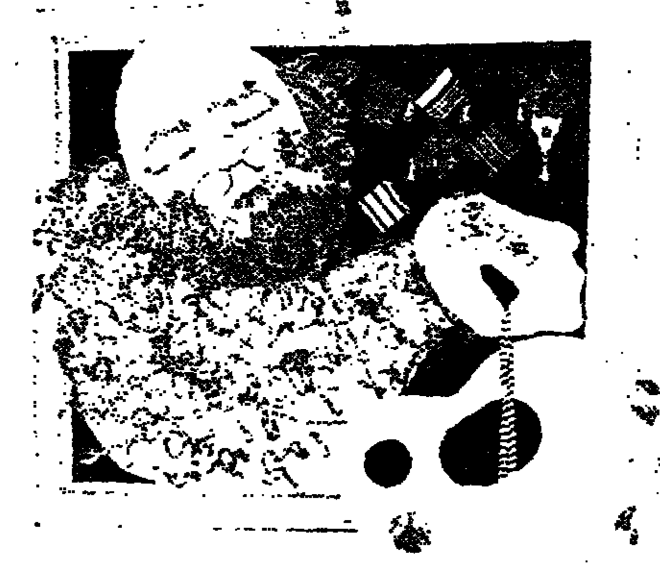
Some 26,300 Rwandans are known to remain in the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire — where 200,000 are missing after reports of massacres — according to UNHCR.

Berween 18,000 and 20,000 Rwandans are in the Congo, 3,800 in Central African Republic, 2,500 in Angola and 700 in Malawi. *(Reuter)*



Advertise in Tehran Times

A Trip to Iran, Alone



Huseinov, Painting With Brush of Love

Part 5

By Husein Huseinov

I decided that I would give my best shot here and chose a setting in deep red. The pencil which I used is the kind which, on paper, blends with the color red giving me the satisfaction of having chosen the color.

It seems my choice of this particular hue of red proved to be the right decision. The color, as a matter of fact, was just the right background and theme called for by my work. A light touch with the pen and the paper's color too was evident under its effect. This also proved helpful in making the inside of the building look less like a museum.

The architectural lines of the interior of the museum are rare and perhaps unique. It seems that most painters who have done the place were familiar with the works of European artists. Iranian miniature art is visible in their motifs.

The scenery and the art works comprising Chehel-Sotun are truly and without doubt one of the best and loveliest in any park-museum.

What really attracted me to the place was not the architecture alone but the interior design and works of art displayed. They could be used as inspirations for more than one sketch. Alas, I was ready for only one that day because I reckoned there were other equally beautiful places to visit in Isfahan.

An employee of the museum who saw me put the finishing touches to my work eager to finish off the day came over and invited me to the tea-house for a cup of tea. This was a most welcome invitation which I accepted immediately. After a day's hard work I felt tired and needed time to relax. During our conversation which was limited to a few words and a lot of gestures, and with the help of a map of the city which I had been given, I made my dear host understand that I wanted to see the remaining cultural and historical sites that I had not been to.

Since I already had quite a sense of direction of different places in the city (the map was a great help) I could understand from his gestures that he was suggesting I make the old Armenian church in Julfa, popularly known as Vank, as my next stop. It is said to be a popular tourist site because of its ancient works of art.

After finishing my cup of tea and thanking my host again, I immediately embarked upon my work at the place which I had picked earlier. This time I was favored by a few new onlookers who, I thought, were also as curious as the others to find out what I was there for.

One of the onlookers was a young lady who seemd to me to be a painter herself. She showed a few of her works but, thinking she my have disturbed me in my work, went on her way. Being unfamiliar with the language of a place is always an obstacle and can limit opportunities for friendship.

During the whole duration of my stay the most valuable discovery I made is that Iranians value the arts and artists very highly. I could hardly find a place where I would be unnoticed and not be asked friendly questions. I noticed people going to or returning from the museum. It was obvious people in Isfahan enjoy art very much and I would venture to say they manifest their love in the many works of art they have produced. These kind of people have always fascinated me.

There was this Azerbeijani whom I befriended. A resident of Tehran, he was very polite and this was obvious in the way he was eager to engage me in conversations, though he tried his best not to disturb me in my work. I finished the second sketch as well and began looking for a new place to do another. I looked and looked but could not find the place which could inspire me. My Azerbaijani friend approached me again and so I told him my problem. He suggested I head for the Naqshe Jahan Square, another popular spot in the city which has been formally renamed Imam's Square.

This friend helped me carry my tools to the square. Reaching the place a wonderful feeling engulfed me. Strange...what I had always imagined Isfahan would be was right before my eyes.

Words simply fail to convey such marvelous feelings but, as always, I did not want to do any rush work that ends up a mess. The sun was about to set as I approached a big, beautiful mosque named after the Imam. People were approaching the mosque in droves to say their daily ritual prayers. The people, to my excited eyes, were going to say their three and four ritual prayers to the one Almighty. Their devotion, evident in their faces, was something words were insufficient to describe, but also something that could not be put on canvas or sketched on paper.

(To be Contd)

Iranian Documentary Cinema in Pre-Revolution Period

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran's first documentary film dates back to the Qajar King, Mozaffar al-Din's visit to Europe in 1900. During this travel, Ebrahim Khan, the photographer, made the first Iranian documentary film by snapping shots at the Festival of Flowers in Paris. In later years, the photographer provided pictures of Ashura ceremonies, the lions of the King in Doshan Tappeh and the people huddling in the streets or in the bazaar.

Some years later a documentary film was screened along with story films. Next to the photographer, Khan Baba Mo'tazedi was the first Iranian who carried out documentary films in more professional level. His early documentary films consisted of those from his family members and then from

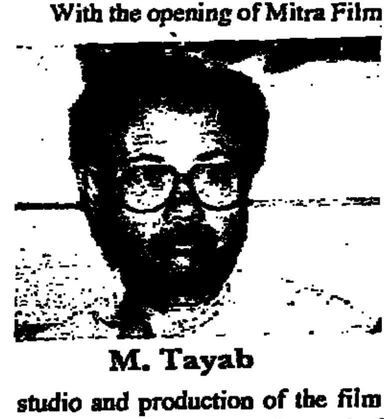
Kamran Shirdel

Mohammad Hassan Mirza the prince, and the constituent assembly. His most important film was taken from the oath-taking ceremony of Reza Khan who swore to remain loyal to preservation of the constitution in the National Consultative Assembly in Nov.-Dec. 1925 (Azar 1304).

During the same period, a number of Western cinematographers impressed by ethnography headed towards Iran and produced the beautiful film *"Alaf"* (Fodder) of the time.

After the outbreak of the World War II, screening of war documentary films prevailed in Iran. Documentary war films constituted part of the cinema programs both in the war fronts and on the curtain. Allied forces drove back step by step the Hitler Fascists.

With the opening of Mitra Film



M. Tayab

studio and production of the film *"Tofan-e Zendegi"* (Whirlwind of Life) the second era of film-making begins in Iran, but still the documentary films are more or less neglected. However, with the outset of the decades of 30s, documentation finds a new way. Mosaddeq's government resulted in the presence of Americans in Iran, paving the way for arrival of valuable documentary films in Iran. In the Mordad 27 coup, valuable news films are recorded. In 1949 (1328) a team of movie men arrive in Iran from the U.S. Sirakios University to teach the principles of documentary filming and their production. This arrival is a turning point in the development of the country's documentary films. Graduates of this group along with a number of foreign-educated Iranians contributed to the flourishing of documentary films. Ebrahim Golestan, Mohammad Gholi Sattar, Farrokh Ghaffari and Hassan Shirvani are among this group.



Wave, Coral and Granite

The films produced in this period greatly rely on formalism on account of the social conditions, being remote from the reality of the society. Films of this nature are *"Sofal"* (Porcelain) and *"Yatim"* (The Orphan) by Manouchehr Tayab; *"Nakhl"* (The Palm Tree) by Naser Taqwaei; *"Mouj, Marjan and Khara"* (Wave, Coral and Granite) by Ebrahim Golestan and *"Nedamatgah"* (Rehabilitation Prison) by Kamran Shirdel.

Documentary cinema is basically constituted on comprehensive research, an element which is absent in Iran's documentation. In spite of this, a limited number of valuable documentary films have found their way into the market in this mid. These films are *"Tehran, Capital of Iran"* and *"Qaleh"* (The Castle) by Kamran Shirdel; *"Bad-e Jen"* (The Wind of Jin) by Naser Taqwaei; *"Siavash in Persopolis"* by Fereidoon Rahnama and *"The House Is Black"* a poetic work by Forough Farrokhzad.

(To be Contd.)

Summer's Here, and the French Government Says "Smile"

PARIS — With the summer tourist season coming into full swing, the French government is again reminding its citizens to do what your mother always told you to do with house guests — smile and be polite.

Though France remains one of the world's top tourist destinations, foreign visitors still find the French arrogant, chauvinistic, inhospitable, unreceptive to foreign languages and generally ornery.

In other words, they could do better.

So for the fourth year running, the government stepped in this week, the official start of the big summer holidays, to remind its citizens to be helpful, accommodating and, at the very least, say hello.

The campaign, called "Bonjour," is directed primarily at people working in the tourist industry.

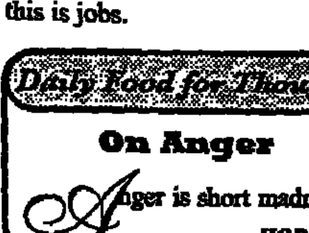
So far, it has had more luck in softening that legendary Gallic obstreperousness that another official campaign — the one to get Parisians to curb their dogs.

That one failed so miserably it was finally dropped, meaning French sidewalks are still hazardous.

But 20,000 participants have actually joined the "Bonjour" program so far. This involves signing a "welcome contract" pledging to smile, pay attention to cleanliness, limit a client's waiting time, cheerfully and efficiently answer telephone requests and generally help foreign visitors get around.

Signatories get to display a small sign on their shop or business bearing the "Bonjour" logo, a testament to their commitment to courtesy.

"If professionals set the tone, the rest of the country will catch on," said Michelle Demessine, France's top tourist official, for whom what really is at stake in all this is jobs.



Daily Food for Thought

On Anger

Anger is short madness.

HORACE

A friendlier France will "consolidate and develop employment," she said.

In 1996, France kept its place as the world's top tourist destination with 61.5 million foreign visitors. But it has failed to increase this number, which has stagnated for five years.

Studies indicate that visitors might be coming in droves but for short-term stays, meaning France's share in the market for long stays — the money-makers — is declining.

Last year, France only came in third for tourism receipts, with 4.7 billion dollars, behind the United States in first place with 10.8 billion dollars and Spain in second with 4.8 billion dollars.

This "stagnation" cannot wholly be blamed on the French character, analysts say. A spate of terrorist attacks in recent years, damaging strikes, lingering resentment over France's now-finished nuclear testing program in the South Pacific and unpre-

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Turk Cartoonist Sentenced for Mocking Army

ISTANBUL — A Turkish court sentenced a caricaturist to 11 months in prison on Tuesday for a cartoon referring to the country's powerful military, state-run Anatolian news agency said.

It said Ertan Aydin was found guilty of "contempt and mockery of the state's military forces," in a cartoon published in the *Emek* newspaper last December.

The cartoon depicted military headquarters as an island in the middle of a black pool with a message emerging from its roof saying "don't smear the army with this filth," referring to a security scandal linking the state with Mafia gangs.

"So they think with the sentence given to me all the dirty connections and filthy relations which emerged after Susurluk have now been cleansed," Aydin told Reuters after the sentence.

The scandal emerged after a car crash near the town of Susurluk last November in which a government MP, a senior police chief and a wanted Mafia boss were all found to have been traveling in the same car. Only the MP survived the crash.

(Reuter)

Book Publishing Stagnant in Germany

FRANKFURT — Book sales have been nearly stagnant in Germany this year with revenues up only one to two percent in the first half after strong growth in 1996, the head of the German Book Trade Association, Gerhard Kurtze, said Tuesday in Frankfurt.

Last year the German book trade scored a turnover increase of 4.2 percent to 17.2 billion marks (9.8 billion dollars) in a market where book price rises averaged 3.8 percent. That was the sharpest growth in German book sales since 1991.

The average middle-income, four-person household in Western Germany is calculated to spend 29.57 marks (13.82 dollars) on books monthly. New releases of books last year declined by 2,600 to 71,500 of which 54,000 were first editions, the association said.

The proportion of translations into German from foreign languages declined last year for the fourth year running, to 14 percent.

(DPA)

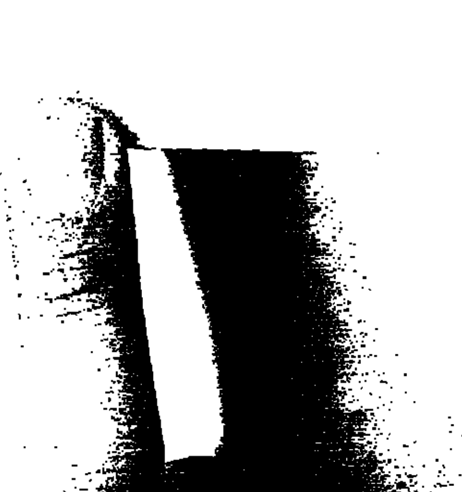
Festival on Graphic Works to Be Held Soon

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The first nation-wide festival on the works of arts students will be held in Tehran August 10-12.

An exhibition of the artistic works will also be held in conjunction of the festival in Khavaran and Bahman cultural centers August 6-16. Awards would be presented to the winners.

The inaugural and closing ceremonies of the festival will be held in Khavaran Cultural Center.





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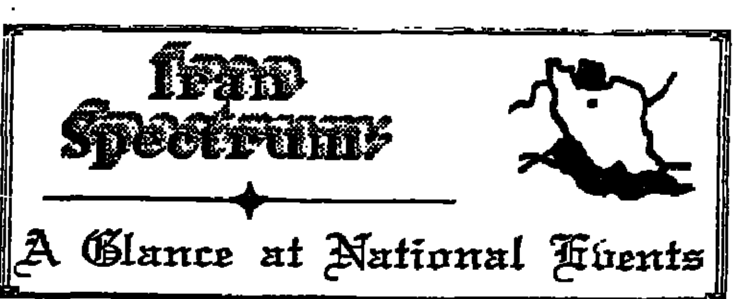


International Spectrum
A Glance at International Events



Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THU. JULY 10, 1997; TIR 19, 1376; RABIUL-AWAL 4, 1418



Iran Spectrum
A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

WORLD IN HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, July 1

Arab League: Anti-Islamic Poster Will Touch Off Violence



The Arab League strongly condemned an anti-Islamic poster put up by an Israeli extremist in the West Bank town of Al-Khalil, saying it would lead to more violence.

Turkish Parliament Approves July 12 Confidence Vote

Turkey's Parliament approved a decision to hold a vote of confidence on July 12 in the new government of Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz.

Sri Lanka Refugee Ship Destroyed by Tigers

Tamil Tiger separatists boarded a ship used to ferry refugees in northwest Sri Lanka and destroyed it by setting it on fire, naval officials said.

Wednesday, July 2

Israelis Kill Palestinian During Protests in Gaza



Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian youth with a bullet to the heart as clashes erupted with protestors around Jewish settlements in Gaza and in Al-Khalil.

Turkey's Yilmaz Vows to Fight Islamism

Turkey's secular Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz Pledged to fight Islamism, which he said had been given a boost under former Premier Necmettin Erbakan's Islamist-led government.

Thursday, July 3

Deaf and Dumb Palestinian Youth Dies From Israeli Checkpoint Wounds

A 15-year-old deaf and dumb Palestinian shot in the head at an Israeli checkpoint in Gaza on June 22 died late Thursday in a Gaza hospital, Palestinian sources said.

Arab Group Calls For UN Emergency Session

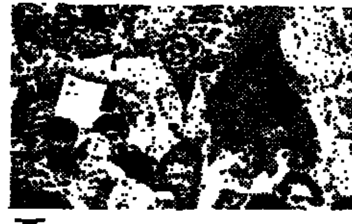
The UN Arab group officially called for an emergency special session of the UN General Assembly on Israel's refusal to halt settlement construction in occupied territories.

Friday, July 4

Khmer Rouge Accuses PM of Coup Plot Amid Tension

Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrillas accused the country's second prime minister of plotting a coup against his partner in Cambodia's fractured coalition as negotiation with the rebel group appeared stalled.

International Troops Guard Albania's Vote Count



International troops moved in to guard the headquarters of Albania's vote count a day after a man was killed during a royalist rally outside the electoral commission.

Most Oil From Tokyo Bay Spill Cleaned Up

Japan's coastguard said the 340 ships it mobilized to clean up the Tokyo Bay oil spill had recovered most of the slick but that it was not clear whether the operation would be finished by the end of the day. *******************

Saturday, July 5

Pathfinder Lands Safely, but Problems Loom for Rover



After happily receiving the first images sent from Mars in two decades NASA scientists scrambled to fix a problem with the pride and joy of the Pathfinder spacecraft: its little rover.

Serb Parliament Votes to Strip Plavsic of Powers

The Bosnian Serb Parliament voted to strip President Biljana Plavsic of her powers and transfer them to the entity's Supreme Defense Council.

Forces Loyal to Cambodia's Rival Premier Clash in Capital

Battles erupted between troops loyal to Cambodia's rival co-prime ministers, heightening fears that the clashes could deteriorate into a general conflict.

Sunday, July 6

Cambodian Rivals Reinforce as Night Approaches



Battling factions loyal to Cambodia's rival prime ministers brought up reinforcements as fierce fighting continued in the streets of Phnom Penh.

Copies of Qoran Found Defaced in Al-Khalil

Five copies of the Qoran were found torn and daubed with paint after a raid by Israeli soldiers on a school in the West Bank town of Al-Khalil, the school's headmistress said.

Flashpoint Orange March Staged Amid Huge Security



Hundreds of Orange Order members protected by thousands of troops and police marched down Portadown's Catholic Garvaghy Road jeered by residents whose campaign to ban the parade failed.

Monday, July 8

Left Claims Overall Victory in Albania Vote

Albania's socialist-led opposition won a two thirds majority in Parliament in run-off ballots at the weekend, a top party official said, allowing it to re-write the country's communist-era constitution.

Joyous Mexicans Celebrate Opposition Victory



Thousands of people filled the Mexican capital's main square to celebrate the victory of left-wing opposition leader Cuauhtemoc Cardenas in the city's first election for mayor.

IRAN IN HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, July 1

Saudi Arabia to Participate in OIC Summit at High Level



Advisor to the Saudi King Fahd, Abdulaziz al-Khavitar, in a meeting with President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said that his country attaches great importance to the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit, to be held in Tehran in September.

Iran Plans to Export Technological Services

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said that Iran has planned to export technological know-how and services in its programmings for the year 2021.

Habibi Underlines Expansion of Cooperation Among Asian Countries

First Vice President Hassan Habibi underlined that expansion of all-out cooperation among such important Asian countries as Iran, India, China and Russia would serve as a strong obstacle in the way of U.S. ambitions to turn the world into a unipolar one.

Wednesday, July 2

Total Close to Signing Contract With Iran

French petroleum giant Total is close to signing a contract with the Iranian government on oil production there, the company's chief executive said.

President Receives Ukrainian, Bruneian Ambassadors

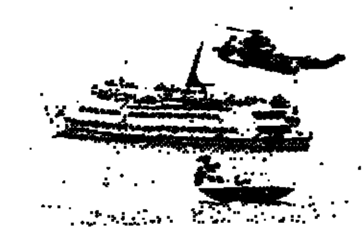
The newly-designated Ukrainian ambassador and the outgoing Bruneian ambassador to Tehran, in separate meetings called on President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Traces of 6th Millennium Copper Know-How Discovered in Rey

Excavations in Cheshmeh Ali, a district of the city of Rey, has led to the discovery of ancient relics dating 8,000 years ago.

Thursday, July 3

Helicopters Shower Flowers Over Site of Iranian Airbus



Two Navy helicopters showered flowers over the site of the Iranian passenger airliner downed by the U.S. over the Persian Gulf waters in 1988, commemorating the 9th anniversary of the downing of the Iran Air Airbus by a U.S. Navy ship, killing 290 civilian passengers and the crew on board.

Iran, Russia Sign Nuclear Power Plant Accord

Iran and Russia have signed an accord on control and safety procedures for a Russian-built nuclear reactor at the southern Iranian port city of Bushehr.

Friday, July 4

Funeral Procession Held for War Martyrs



A funeral procession was held for 400 war martyrs of Tehran after the end of the Friday prayer and was attended by President-elect Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Khatami.

Saturday, July 5

Iran-Syria Supreme Committee Holds Session



First session of Irano-Syrian Supreme Committee was held where the Iranian and Syrian first vice presidents discussed expansion of bilateral relations and cooperation as well as the most important regional and global issues.

Sunday, July 6

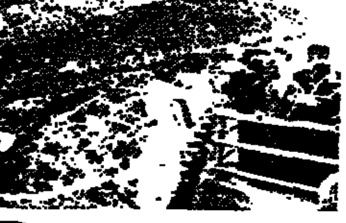
Demonstrators Call For Punishment of Those Insulting Prophet (S)



Demonstrators in Tehran at the end of their protest gathering against Israeli's recent desecration of Prophet Mohammad (S) issued a statement calling for punishment of agents responsible for such a sacrilegious act.

Monday, July 8

President Inspects Construction Process of Karkheh Dam



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani inspected the construction work of Karkheh Dam, the largest earth dam in the Middle East.

A Cat Nap at Midday Sends You Into Full Throttle in the Afternoon

The Cartoon cat Garfield have long known that a nap attack can catch you unawares at all hours and is almost impossible to resist, no matter how strong your will power.

But unlike the legendary Seven Sleepers, seven Christians immured during the third century AD who slept blissfully until they were freed 200 years later, a quarter of an hour is usually enough for a midday nap, cat nap or power nap.

German scientists are no less liable than anyone else to be attacked by an irresistible desire to take a nap, and they too know what a world of good it can do you.

So their research objective has been to rehabilitate the power nap, the need for which is mostly felt around midday, and they have found that a cat nap can improve concentration and performance and reduce the number of mistakes made.

"But it shouldn't be for more than half an hour," says Juergen Zulley of Regensburg University, one of Germany's foremost sleep researchers. Otherwise deep sleep will set, circulation will switch into sleep mode and you will take longer to get going again.

Sleep research experiments have been held in underground chambers for years in Regensburg and at the Max Planck Institute of Behavioral Biology in Andechs, Bavaria.

Regardless of external influences such as daylight, Zulley says, the biological clock of test sleepers who have spent weeks in subterranean isolation as part of chrono-chaos experiments, gains the upper hand.

People sleep a little longer at a time which the body takes to be night, while around what is presumed to be midday signs of tiredness and a trough of low performance unmistakably occur.

"A midday nap is in keeping with our biological rhythm," says Zulley. But he takes a more sceptical view of techniques aimed at replacing nocturnal sleep by a larger number of daytime naps, thereby reducing the total amount of time spent asleep.

"Our experience indicates that that does not work," he says. "Even with a circular, 24-hour rhythm, test sleepers try to sleep longer at 'night'."

The idea of sleeping by taking periodic naps dates back to Leonardo da Vinci, 1452-1519, who is reported to have taken a 15-minute nap every four hours and so to have slept a mere hour and a half per day.

Geert mayer of the German Society for Sleep Research and Sleep Medicine in Schwalmstadt feels it might theoretically be possible for short bursts of sleep to allow the body to rest and recuperate - but only for a short period.

"There are people who need a lot of sleep and people who get by with very little," he concedes, and very few people are likely to get by on Leonardo's sleeping pattern.

Mayer raises a further point, which is that short bursts of sleep drastically reduce the time in which people dream, identified and known - for obvious reasons - as REM, or rapid eye movement, sleep.

The importance of REM sleep for the human psyche has yet to be fully researched, but who would want to dispense with dreams for good?

As we go through a variety of sleep phases at night and dream at length in the early hours in particular, Mayer recommends, taking an early midday nap, which would tend to be less deep than an afternoon Siesta.

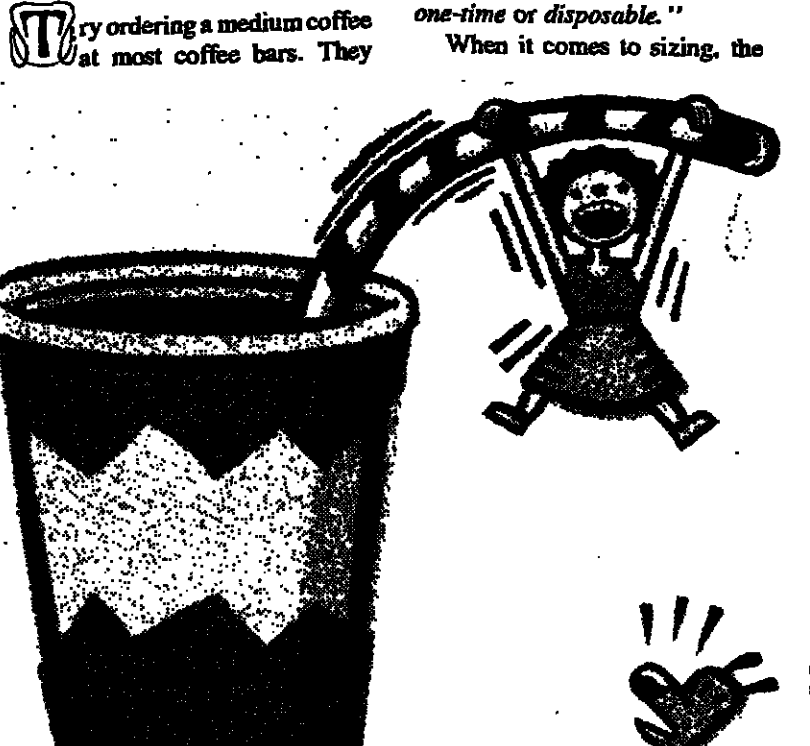
In many warmer parts of the world the Siesta is an accepted feature of life, not least because of the weather. In temperate climes midday nappers often find it hard to fall asleep.

But you can even buy a good on how to do it, and as Zulley says, a bit of shuteye does you more good than three cups of coffee.

(DPA)

Make Mine a Medium

How in-between sizes of nearly everything disappeared



Try ordering a medium coffee at most coffee bars. They look at you as though you asked for a flagon of mead.

the word *medium*, especially in food and beverages, is going the way of the "cup" of coffee. Drink sizes have become a free-for-all of image building, divorced from any real description of quantity.

The move away from *medium* is partly attributable to economics-companies trying to squeeze out a few more cents by exaggerating sizes.

To be sure, *medium* hasn't died altogether. There are medium olives (along with large, giant, jumbo and colossal) and medium garbage bags. There are medium eggs: they are often the smallest. Bigger eggs are classified as large, extra-large and jumbo. Paper towels now come in large and jumbo too.

Small products are flourishing, but they aren't called *small*. For example, cereals, aspirin and shampoo are sold in tiny packages. "But they're never called *tiny*," say Lorna Opatow, president of the marketing research firm of Opatow Associates. "They're called *individual* or *one-time* or *disposable*."

When it comes to sizing, the masters are fast-food restaurants. At McDonald's the soft-drink sizes are regular, medium, large and, on occasion, super-size. "Nobody wants a small drink anymore," says McDonald's spokesman Chuck Ebeling. "We live in an era when people carry a liter bottle of water around as though it were a pencil over their ear."

Behind the size inflation in beverages is a simple fact: the actual cost of the additional beverage is a minute portion of the price. "The packaging and handling costs for a drink are a substantial part of the cost," says Ebeling of McDonald's. "If we package it in a larger size, that's more efficient for us."

Amazingly Pasqua Coffee, a cisco, is sticking with *small, medium* and *large*. "We want to offer quick service," says Robert Mann, vice president of operations. "We don't want to waste time correcting customers' coffee grammar."

(Courtersy THE WALL STREET JOURNAL)

Entertaining in Style

Caramel Custard

You will need...

For the Caramel:
3 oz. granulated sugar
3 tablespoons water
For the custard:
4 eggs
$1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. castor sugar
1 pint milk
few drops vanilla essence

Preparation time
15 minutes

Oven setting
33°F, Gas Mark 3

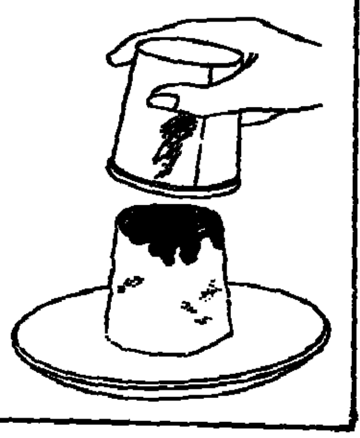
Put granulated sugar into a heavy pan with water and dissolve without boiling. When it has dissolved bring the syrup to boiling point and boil until it is golden brown. Pour the caramel into dariole moulds and make sure the bases are evenly covered. When cool, butter sides of moulds.

Blend together eggs and castor sugar. Warm milk, then pour it on to egg mixture. Mix well and add a few drops of vanilla essence. Strain the custard into the moulds. Place moulds in a meat tin half filled with hot water. Bake in a very moderate oven for about 1 hour or until a knife inserted in the centers comes out clean.

Leave the custards in a cold place overnight before turning them out on to a flat serving dish (see Quick Tip below).

Serves 4-6

QUICK TIP



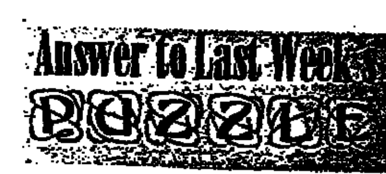
When baking the custard do not cook too quickly or there will be bubbles in the mixture. Turn out just before serving, having left it in the refrigerator for at least 12 hours so that the moist custard has fully dissolved the caramel.

PUZZLE

Q'ING UP

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SIGN LANGUAGE



هكذا من الأصل

Feature

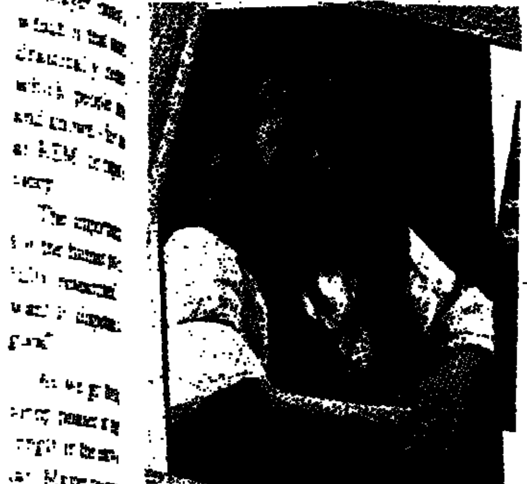
Facets of Countries

Spotlight: Finland

Finns Make Light of Wifely Burden

You don't have to be Finnish to enter the world championships in wife-carrying, but it helps.

The regning champion, Jouni Jussila, is a Finn. A laborer from the southwest, he has not been defeated in the four years since he started competing with his wife Tiina.



Typical finnish country woman.

In Telemark, southern Norway, weightlifter Atle Ronning is cycling and weight training in preparation for a challenge on Jussila's supremacy. Some Germans and Estonians also plan to compete in this year's contest on July 5.

But Finns have the edge, because being a Finn helps you understand why, every year, other Finns wake up one July morning and lift up their wives, their neighbors' wives, or any woman over 17 they can get their hands on, and cart them over a 236-meter obstacle course, tackling waist-high timber stiles and a chest-deep pool of water, in a race.

The first prize is the woman's weight in beer.

"The important thing is to be fast and have strong legs—and to have as small a wife as possible," said Jussila.

For those still sceptical, why not call up www.iisalmi.fi/www/sonkajarvi/engsonka.html, the worldwide web page giving details about the competition.

Summer makes Finns frolicsome.

Wife-carrying is one of a host of bizarre contests that Finns, who tend to get very gloomy in the winter dark, have devised for the scant months of summer when the sun hardly sets and people's mood turns frolicsome.

"This year the contest will be organised for the sixth time, and the second time at world championship level," a statement from the organizers says.

Being Finnish, or able to speak Finnish, would also make it easier to find the event. At least a Finn can ask the way to the sub-Arctic village of Sonkajarvi, deep in middle-Finland.

It is in the grounds of Sonkajarvi School, on the sidelines of the village fete, that the men—they tend to be men, although women can compete by carrying each other—take up the rabelaisian wife-carrying challenge every summer.

The villagers, or Sonkajarvelaisia to the Finns, last year declared the race open to foreigners, thereby elevating it to world championship status.

The organizers insist the contest is not politically incorrect, at least in spirit. it started when the local tourist authority rediscovered the 19th-century legend of "Ronkainen the Robber," said to have held a test for would-be gang members.

Legend has it he forced them to lug sacks of grain or live swine over a similar course. The challenge also purportedly stems from an even earlier tribal practice of wife-stealing.

"The water pool has got deeper every year," Jussila said. His winning time last year was one minute 6.2 seconds, but he said his personal best was 52 seconds, and he aims to come in under a minute this year.

The Norwegian Ronning, whose strength is mainly in handling static burdens, has no illusions about his chances of outpacing Jussila's earth-scorching time.

"It's a very heavy weight over such a long course," he said, adding he was not sure if his 50 kg (110 lb) Finnish partner had lost any weight since last year.

"It was very hard last year—but the girl I took asked me to go again, so i said okay. It's good to have some fun."

Jussila is competing to win and is cagey about his tactics: but his wife Tiina does only weigh about 44 kg (97 lb).

...or why not try mosquito killing?

If heaving women around sounds too gruelling, other world championship contests in Finland may appeal to visitors seeking 15 minutes of fame through unusual activities: how about panning for gold or running through bogs?

Political correctness or urban tastes rarely feature.

The fourth world championships in mosquito killing are due to go ahead on July 11 and 12 at Pyhatunturi in Finnish Lapland, even though an unseasonably chilly summer means there have been very few mosquitoes around.

No fancy legends here, just the mundane affliction of thousands of mosquitoes whining throughout the Arctic North's 24-hour-a-day sun as the origin of this contest.

"I once thought to myself, aren't these mosquitoes any good for anything?" said organizer Kai Kullervo Salmijarvi. "Then I came up with the idea of killing them at world-championship speed."

The contest is simple. Competitors remove their shirts and stand for a few minutes in the Lapland air. They can use only their hands to slaughter any mosquitoes that land on them. A panel of judges stands by to resolve any disputes.

The world record is "21 massive mosquitoes" despatched in the 1995 competition.

Back at Finnish national level, the months of July and August also offer the championships of horse harnessing, boot throwing and cattle calling.

Cattle-calling—bringing the cows in for milking—is a once-dying art which competition spokeswoman Anitta Blom says is now undergoing something of a revival: "it's very 'in' now."

The horse-harnessing rules are loose: "Style points are not reduced even if the horse breaks wind or kicks the competitor," the rules state. Prizes range from a bag of oats to a lot of horsemeat.

But remember, you do have to be Finnish to enter that one.

(Courtesy of Reuter)

Anecdote

Red for Danger

During a buillfight, a drunk suddenly wandered into the middle of the ring. The crowd began to shout, but the drunk was unaware of the danger. The bull was busy with the *matador* at the time, but it suddenly caught sight of the drunk who was shouting rude remarks and waving a red cap. Apparently sensitive to criticism, the bull forgot all about the *matador* and charged at the drunk. The crowd suddenly grew quiet. The drunk, however, seemed quite sure of himself. When the bull got close to him, he clumsily stepped aside to let it pass. The crowd broke into cheers and the drunk bowed. By this time, however, three men had come into the ring and they quickly dragged the drunk to safety. Even the bull seemed to feel sorry for him for it look on sympathetically until the drunk was out of the way before once more turning its attention to the *matador*.

Brain Teaser

PERFECT SUITORS

From a standard pack of cards I remove four, one of each suit and one of each of the ranks Jack, Queen, King and Ace. I lay them out in a line face-down. Now, I will tell you that:

1. The heart isn't next to the club. 2. No card is next to its immediate senior rank. 3. The color of the suits alternates. 4. The King and Queen are facing opposite directions.

Identify the four cards.

(Answers will appear next week.)

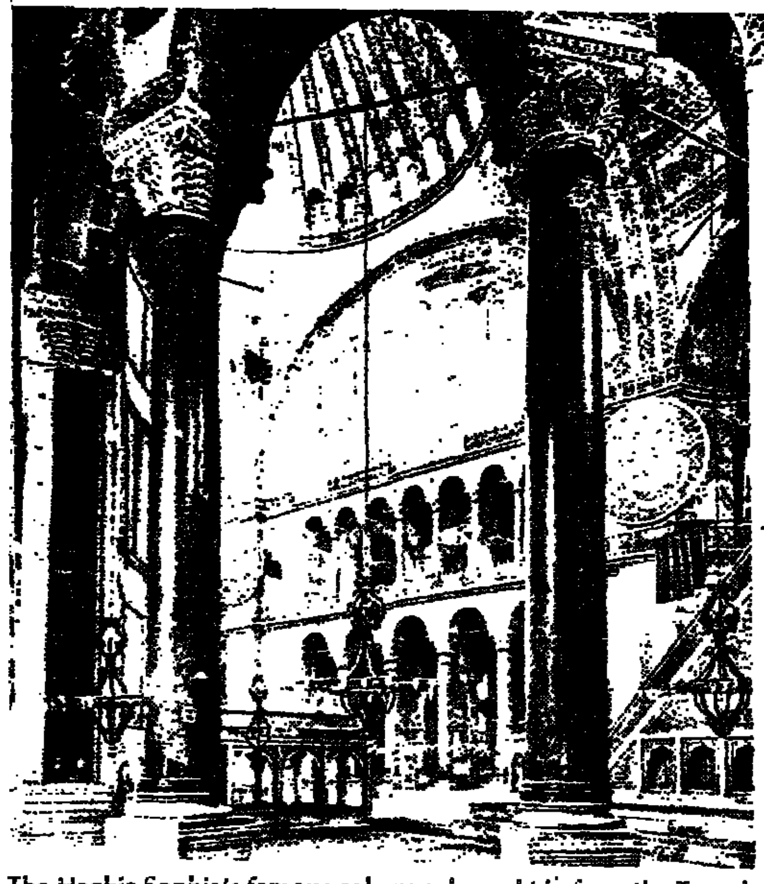
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Part ii

THE HAGHIA SOPHIA MUSEUM



The Haghia Sophia's famous columns, brought in from the Temple of Helios at Baalbek, stand in pairs at the four corners of the nave.

THE HAGHIA SOPHIA, nominated by many historical authors as the eighth wonder of the world, is certainly an architectural masterpiece for being one of the few structures of such huge dimension to have stood erect for so long. Its architectural mastery far ahead of its time is unmatched for 1000 years.

Originally Haghia Sophia (in Turkish Ayasofya), the building's name is mistranslated as Saint Sophia. The basilica was not dedicated to a saint named Sophia, but rather once a pagan temple had stood, had borne the same name. The first Haghia Sophia, a small structure with a wooden roof, was constrcuted during the second half of the 4th century upon order of Constantius, son of Constantine the Great. Although some sources attribute the honor to the father, it is not possible to take this claim seriously, for there is clear evidence that no house of worship was built during his reign. The first Basilica of Haghia Sophia burned down completely during a fire in the year 404, and the second basilica which was of somewhat larger dimension was opened in 415. It served Christians for more than a century until 532 when, in the course of an uprising against the government of Emperor Justinian (Nika Revolt) that ended in the death of 10,000 and the destruction of many buildings, was also burned down.

Justinian, who was able to suppress the uprising with great difficulty, ordered the immediate construction of a temple "like nothing seen before since the day of Adam or can be seen in the future" atop the remnants of the second Haghia Sophia. He made all the necessary means available to the architect Anthemius ofTralles and the mathematician Isidorus of Miletos who were to prepare the plans and supervize the construction, and placed all the riches of the state treasury at their disposal. Finally in 537, the largest church of the Christian world was dedicated with great festivities.

The Haghia Sophia, built by Justinian merely as a prestige building, nevertheless was regarded wtih awe during the centuries that followed. Although it was created during the 6th century as a Byzantine tectonic work, the Haghia Sophia is actually an experiment in the Roman tradition of architecture which had no archetype and which could not be imitated afterwards. The contrast between the exterior and interior of the building as well as the colossal dome are legacies of the Roman era.

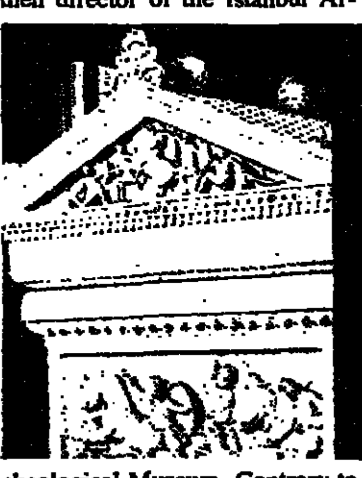
Throughout its lifetime, the maintenance of the Haghia Sophia always cost the rulers of the city vast sums and the poverty that prevailed towards the end of the Byzantine Empire left the church virtually a ruin. Therefore, it was the conquest of Istanbul by Turks under Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror and the eventual conversion of the Haghia Sophia into a mosque that saved this beautiful monument. The most vital repairs were done in the 16th century by Turkish architect Sinàn the Great who, among other things, added buttresses that have supported the whole structure to this day. Also, major restoration work was done in the 19th century by the Fosatti brothers, and on different occasions after 1926 by various Turkish architects, who have also added an iron frame to the dome. After serving for 916 years as a basilica and 477 years as a mosque to two religions, the Haghi Sophia was converted into a museum upon Ataturk's orders. The mosaics that were uncovered uring the 1930-1935 period are among the most important works of art of the Byzantine era that have survived to this day.

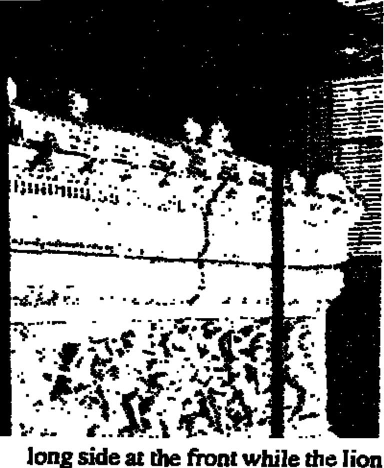
THE ISTANBUL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

In 1876, a few decades after the foundation of the first official museum of Istanbul at the church of Aya Irini, the Cinili Kosk (Lodge with Ceramics), which was the first building of the Topkapi Palace, was established as the Imperial Museum. The Cinili Kosk soon proved insufficient for exhibiting the many collections of ancient art that kept growing rapidly, and the present museum was built in three states between 1891 and 1908. The exterior of the museum building was designed in the general style of the two most important pieces of art it houses, namely, the Alexander Sarcophagus and the Sarcophagus of Mourning Women. Today, the Istanbul Archeological Museum is among the most prominent museums of the world. The Ancient Near East Art section located in the courtyeard of the museum has in display many pieces discovered during excavations in Meopotamia, Egypt and Anatolia, and Turkish ceramics and china of different periods are exhibited.

The Alexander Sarcophagus

The Alexander Sarcophagus is the most famous of the sarcophagi discovered in 1887 by the painter-archaeologist Osman Hamdi Bey, then director of the Istanbul Archeological Museum. Contrary to popular belief, this sarcophagus was not made for Alexander the Great but was decorated with scenes depicting him. Archaeologists contend this masterpiece was sculpted during the last quarter of the 4th century B.C.





On the sides of the sarcophagus, which itself is shaped along the lines of an Ionic temple, a battle between the Macedonian and Persian armies and a lion hunt are pictured realistically in high reliefs. The battle scene is on the long side at the front while the lion hunt scene is on the long side at the back, both featuring Macedonian and Persian soldiers. It may well be said that this work of art, considered to be one of the most important of antiquity, inspired the construction of the museum it now graces.

(To be Contd.)

1940 - In World War II, the Battle of Britain began when at least 70 German bombers attacked docks in South Wales.

1940 - French National Assembly gave plenary powers to the government of Marshal Petain.

1943 - U.S. 7th and British 8th armies began the invasion of Sicily.

1962 - Telstar, the first television telecommunications satellite was launched from Cape Canaveral, making possible the first relaying of television programs across the Atlantic.

1973 - The Bahamas attained full independence within the Commonwealth, having been a British colony since 1783.

1985 - One Greenpeace crew member died when the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior was blown up and sunk by French secret agents in Auckland Harbor in New Zealand.

1991 - Boris Yeltsin sworn in as the first elected president of Russia that also saw the symbolic burial of communist power in the vast republic.

1992 - Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega was sentenced to 40 years in jail in the United States for allowing his country to be used for drug smuggling.

CANDID CAMERA



Photo: Abbas Kowsari

TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1302 - In the French-Flemish war, a French Army under Robert D'artois was heavily defeated by the flemings at the battle of Coutrai.

1935 - Alfred Dreyfus, French Army officer, died. His conviction on a false charge of treason in 1894 became the center of a controversy that divided French society for decades.

1940 - Marshal Henri Petain was declared chief of the French state in the wake of defeat by Nazi Germany and the resignation of President Lebrun.

1978 - A liquid gas tanker exploded in the middle of a camp site at San Carlos de La Rapita in Spain killing almost 200 people.

1979 - The U.S. spaceship skylab reentered the earth's atmosphere and broke up after orbiting the earth since 1973.

1995 - Bosnian Serb forces shrugged off NATO air strikes to overrun Srebrenica, a UN-declared "safe area", sending tens of thousands of Muslims fleeing for their lives.

1996 - The UN criminal tribunal for former Yugoslavia issued international arrest warrants against Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic on charges of genocide and war crimes.

A Tale From Gulistan of Sa'di

Once I saw a Dervish who placing his head upon the threshold of the Ka'bah, moaning: "O Forgiver, O Merciful One! Thou knowest what the ignorant can offer to Thee. I crave pardon for my deficient service, 'cause I can implore no reward for my obedience; sinners repent their misdeeds. Arifs (adherents of gnosticism) ask forgiveness for their imperfect worship. Devotees expect a reward for their obedience, and merchants ask the price of their wares; but I, thy humble servant, have brought hope and not obedience, have come to beg thy mercy and not to trade - - - - deal with me as Thou deemest fittest. Whether Thou killest me, or forgivest my sins, I wilt kiss the dust of thy threshold; a slave has nothing to command; whatever Thou commandest, I obey."

I saw a mendicant at the door of the Ka'bah weeping abundantly and saying: "I ask not for the acceptance of my service, but for moving the pen of pardon over my sins."

Test Your English

There is a word missing from each of these sentences. Put the correct word in blank.

1 Many people are accustomed .... smoking over twenty cigarettes a day.

2 Apart .... doctors, few people seem to realize how harmful smoking can be to one's health.

3 The government is now trying to explain .... people the dangers of smoking.

4 No matter .... hard may people try, they cannot stop smoking.

5 The government is considering suggestions for talks .... the radio.

6 Unfortunately, many people are fed up .... advice of this kind.

7 They say that they are old enough to be responsible .... such decisions.

8 They argue that their personal freedom to do what they want is very important .... them.

9 They refuse to part .... their old habits and way of life.

10 They argue that smoking provides one of the very few pleasures in life .... many people.

ANSWER KEY

1 to 2 from 3 to 4 how 5 on 6 with 7 for 8 to 9 with 10 for

Stunning Ideas for Flower Arrangement

FLORAL FAN

The beauty of these 'triangular'-shaped vases is that they can be used to create an attractive 'sweeping fan' effect. Place marbles in the vase to stabilize the arrangement before adding water. Then begin the outline with yellow broom, curving the pieces out from the vase.

Arrange the remaining flowers in groups. First, the yellow lilies, keeping the flowers at differing heights to obtain maximum focal effect; next the white chrysanthemums on the opposite side.

Fill in the outline with stems of *Oncidium ornithorhynchum* orchids and a spray of forsythia.





